



Ready to impact your workplace?

Success: Let's be real. In business, success is the way we measure ourselves. The question is how do we measure success? In business it usually means financial success. Money, the root of all evil, has become our scoreboard for success. Profit is one measure. Positive cash flow another; shareholder value in both public and private companies is possibly the ultimate measure with everything else leading up to it.



Even nonprofits, churches, ministries, associations and social organizations have fallen under the seduction of the "metrics of success" with donation revenue, number of members, value of assets and finally, the endowment, as measures of success.

We have been seduced. When we face Christ, how impressed will He be when we share how much money we left? Not very!

When the metrics of success become the reason for, and value of our efforts, the metrics can drive everything. First, let me say that metrics are important. Metrics can reveal a lot of important things but metrics in the Kingdom career or the Kingdom company must never become the "purpose" for what we do. Metrics are just part of the process.

So how should we measure success? The problem with a question like this is the underlying assumption that Kingdom success can be measured. It's time we changed our measuring sticks. The disciple Philip had a very successful ministry by any measure. He was thriving in Samaria and by our current standards would be seen as running a successful ministry. Then God said get up and go to a desolate road leading out of town and wait until I tell you what to do. The Ethiopian official was thus saved and Christianity spread to Africa. Now, find me a way to justify with metrics the success of that venture as it relates to Philip? He did not go back to where he had been and simply add another convert to his burgeoning ministry. He moved on to where the King called him.

I am convinced that I have put God in a box. "Give me success in my business (career, position) and I will use that success to free me up to do more for You." His response is clearly "Follow Me. Abide in Me. Love Me. Obey Me. Be still and know I am GOD."

Is it possible that the path I am on in business is the path He called me to or the one I want Him to bless? As long as I seek success the world's way in order to be a successful Kingdom follower, I will be stuck on the treadmill, spinning nowhere. Once I switch roles and realize that He lives through me; that He impacts others through me; and the people – all the people- He brings into my circle, are people He cares deeply about; only then can I understand and apply His criteria for success.

If we make consistently good business decisions, focus on the right principles and practices and seek first the Kingdom, the metrics of success will change to align with what the King measures. He knows what we need. He will provide...so long as we seek the Kingdom first and foremost.

"Father, change the way I gauge success. Please release me from the bondage of expectations, the chains of financial metrics and open my eyes to see success the way you see it. Help me to follow, obey, abide and most importantly to love, the way you love. May I live through the life of Christ, not on my own following rules but through Him, following the King."

kingdomcompanies.org

Kingdom Companies
1000 Hurricane Shoals Road D500 Lawrenceville GA 30043
Phone: 877-367-9862 Fax: 770-339-8437
Email: info@kingdomcompanies.org
Web site: <http://www.kingdomcompanies.org>
the movement of God in the marketplace

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