

Joining God in Resource Development

Originally published in BOARDWISE, October 28, 2002, used by permission

"...I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can only do what He sees His Father doing." John 5:19

Henry Blackaby points out in his book, *Experiencing God*, "When you see the father at work around you, that is your invitation to adjust your life to Him and join Him in that work." In the last five issues, *BoardWise* readers have been provided with an overview of how to see and think Christianly in our non-Christian world in regard to God, money, giving, and asking so that you can come along side God. It seems that the organizations we represent as board members never have enough financial resources. While it is easy to adopt a "whatever it takes" attitude in order to get more resources, and it is easy to forget how God views our situation, we need to continue to keep the basic biblical principles in front of us.

In summary to this series, then, here are ten principles for biblically based fundraising, which apply to Christian leaders (including board members) who believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and prayerfully choose to pursue eternal kingdom values in giving and asking. It is my prayer that each of you will seek the sacred kingdom resources of God's economy within these parameters.

1. A biblical view may seem like foolishness. Even among Christians, the values of our culture frequently dominate our worldview and influence resource development decisions. Most often an eternal kingdom view will seem like foolishness to those employing an earthly, materialistic

worldview. We need to give a higher value to what is right in God's eyes.
(1 Cor. 2:14, 1 Cor. 1:17-31)

2. An abundance of resources and grace exist. In God's economy, as we come along side His work, He will work within us and our organizations to accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine. We need to hold on in faith to this reality of abundance. (Eph. 3:20, Ps. 50:10-11)
3. We are called to manage God's resources. Acknowledging the primacy of the Gospel as our chief treasure, Christians are called to lives of stewardship that focus on eternal values. Board members have a special responsibility, as stewards of the organizations they govern. (Rom. 1:16, Mt. 6:19-21, Mt. 25:15-30)
4. Possessions have a purpose. God is watching what we do with His resources, both individually and corporately. He will hold us accountable and reward us in Heaven according to our effectiveness as stewards on earth. (Luke 16:1-9)
5. Faith and finances are linked. Giving is an expression of gratitude to God, is linked to one's intimate faith relationship with Christ, and is a reflection of what God has provided. (Mk. 12:41-44, Lk. 7:36-50)
6. Fundraisers play a role in spiritual formation. Because our faith and giving are linked, Christian leaders and fundraisers are partners with the church in growing generous believers. This educational role should permeate all that is done to grow supporters. (Jam. 3:1)

7. Fundraisers are to facilitate faith. They should acknowledge the priority of relying on God to change hearts, more than on human fundraising methods. The role of the fundraiser is to advance and facilitate a believer's faith in and worship of God, and as a result the person will become generous. (Jn. 15:4-5, 2 Cor. 3:5)
8. Do not violate the sacred trust. Giving is a spiritual activity and one that occurs in Christians through the Holy Spirit's promptings to give. Because of this, fundraisers and organizations must avoid manipulation or violating the sacred trust of their supporters. (Rom. 12:1-2)
9. No competition in the kingdom. An eternal, God-centered worldview promotes cooperation among Christian organizations, rather than competition, and places the giver's relationship to God above the ministry's agenda. From God's eyes, all Christian organizations are part of a bigger plan of accomplishing God's work in harmony. (Ps. 90:1-12, 2 Cor. 4:16-18)
10. Eternal rewards are available. God cares about how believers use their possessions on earth and will provide rewards in heaven as a result of what you send ahead. What type of rewards will you have waiting for you? (Mt. 25:15-30, Lk. 14:12-14)

As these principles are implemented by you and the organizations you steward, the resulting joy-filled generosity of believers will fully fund God's work here on earth.

Are you willing to ask the hard questions, as a board member, to implement a paradigm shift for the organizations that you govern to come alongside God? My prayer is that God has used this series to help board members see through God's eyes, when it comes to resource allocation, and to be renewed in your role as stewards of the resources God has entrusted to you.

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