

CABE Network 22 April 2009

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Servant Leadership in a Perplexing Marketplace?

1. What is perplexing about the marketplace?

The market place is:

- a) Dominant – it dominates the agenda (having replaced the church and the government). Not all the Christian community recognises this so as leaders and workers in the marketplace we get adverse reactions or hostility from them.
- b) Fast changing – how relevant will we be tomorrow?
- c) Global – global investment fund seeks to bring capital into parts of the world where unemployment is consistently at 50-60%. God wants us to have a global understanding and He is sending us out into the global marketplace to influence it in His way.

The social contract between business, government & civil society has broken down due to the breakdown of trust and unbridled greed of us all. We need to share responsibility in this chaos.

2. What is God's view of the marketplace?

- a) The marketplace is under God's judgement. Guard your personal walk with God and your devotional life - daily! In Rev 18 the fall of Babylon we can see parallels with our current situation: a focus on the marketplace (trading in bodies and souls of men & women...). Peter expressed a concern that we might emerge prematurely from the current economic crisis before we have learned the lessons we need to and referenced "Shiva" – a period of mourning, where we reflect on what God is saying to us.
- b) Some of God's greatest redemptive acts are taking place in the marketplace. We have many opportunities to engage other business men and women.

3. What is our role as servant leaders in this market place?

Psalm 78:70-72 God appointed David as the shepherd of his people: he led them with integrity of heart and skilfulness of hand. He was responsible for the nation in all aspects – not just spiritual.

Servant leadership = an orientation towards others to do what needs to be done – informed by our relationship with Jesus Christ.

As a business leader what can you do to serve the marketplace?

How do we do that and compete? And continue to seek profitability?

Key principles

- a) Understand to whom we belong. Not what you are leading.
- b) We are called to moral and operational servant leadership. It is a divine appointment from day 1. Over time we need to pray that God would give us more competence to lead our companies excellently.
- c) We are sent as servant leaders to demonstrate, proclaim (seeking discrete opportunities to explain the hope within us) and pray (as priests).
- d) Servant leaders know how to live with failure.

To listen to the talk go to the podcasts section of the CABE website

<http://www.cabeonline.org/podcasts.php>.