

Questions Posed for Study

Question: Should Christians go into business together?

'Partnerships'
(II Corinthians 6:14 - 18)

Intro: there are times when it is wise to not mix good friendships with joint business ventures and or money matters. Many good friendships have been destroyed over financial issues whether it is a sale of something, a loan or a business partnership. But then there is another disastrous area that under any circumstances is never, ever wise and that is stated clearly in **II Corinthians 6:14 – 18**. One must take into consideration biblical principles when forming any partnership whether in business or marriage.

I. Initially, from a business perspective, the important things to take into consideration.

#1. _____ form a partnership if at all possible! WHY?

A. Primarily because partnerships create legal entanglements and limitations that can and do _____ a business than if a person owns their own business.

(1). **Proverbs 6:1 – 3**.

(2). It is not wise to place ones' self in a _____ where they may be countable for a debt a _____ may create, and you would be forced to pay it. (Deep Pockets)

(3). Solomon's advice is to not _____ a partnership rather than creating one.

B. You may feel _____ to a prospect, a friendship unlike any other, for some reason or other, when it comes to _____ matters, operational ideas, profit margins, loans and inventory, _____ will do his best to drive wedges between partners as he does in marriages with the goal to destroy.

C. An exception would be a partnership with a _____ and even this can have its problems when it comes to plans, goals and equity.

#2. _____, ever enter into a partnership with an _____ individual. **Proverbs 22:24- 25**.

A. **II Corinthians 6:14 – 18** is an important part of one's stand on marriage.

(1). The _____ is supposed to have their lives guided and directed by biblical precepts and principles that guide us in all of life's involvement.

(2). This is true in matters of business, marriage and family matters.

B. It doesn't matter how nice, how cordial, how professional, experienced or

financed they may be, the unsaved are not _____ guided by biblical principles or biblical precepts. (Eric Snyder)

(1). To them, _____ corners is a typical business practices, making decisions without prayer is also typical.

(2). Many times, honesty is only something one practices when it is _____ to do so.

#3. If one is bent on ignoring biblical counsel, make sure a _____ is involved.

A. **Proverbs 10:4** is pretty straight forward

(1). Simply because you and a buddy decide to go into business is no _____ that things won't bomb-out.

(2). Even if both of you are Christians, one can always get _____, or that the one-time friendship is going to remain intact!

B. Any partnership, if one feels they must go this route, must be kept strictly as a _____ proposition in order to protect the friendship.

II. The ethical and spiritual perspective – keep one's business out of the _____.

A. The house of the Lord is for _____ business and not secular business. Such as - (Tupper-ware, pyramid plans, raising funds to support the church)

B. It is wrong for a number of reasons to use the church _____ as a business prospects. (boosting sales, as a core of support due to obligating, (penny & Don))

C. Landlords should avoid renting property to church members because if they fall behind, there are no perfect renters or perfect landlords. (Next door)

D. What happens when a partner loses _____, or takes more time off, enthusiasm tends to wane especially if the work is hard and the hours long, and the takeoff takes longer than expected to make a profit.

E. What happens if your partner begins to _____ and church-life drops off? Church life is important and should be guarded to keep one focused on what is really important – **Hebrews 10:20 – 30.**

F. The question is then – “Why do I want a partnership?”

1. Is it because they have the _____? Ask yourself, why would they then want to partner with me?

2. Is it because they have the _____ too front the partnerships? Same question, “why would they want to partner with you?”

3. Is it because you are afraid of failure, then who are you _____?

4. Will such a business be a business that _____ God – then meet with your pastor and a lawyer for biblical advice & legal counsel.