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“Leadership is the art and science of inspiring others to reach their full potential in the pursuit of a common vision”

Dr. James Bultman

*Today Reference*

Initiative, creativity, and passion are gifts..... They cannot be commanded. If you are a CEO, you won't get these gifts by exhorting people to work harder, or by ordering them to love their customers and kill their competitors. You'll only elicit these capabilities when you ask .... What kind of purpose would merit the best of everyone who works here? What lofty cause would inspire folks to give generously of their talents? ..... it takes more than breathless exhortation, it takes a moral imperative.

Excerpt from "The Future of Management" by Gary Hamel  
Ranked #1 Influential Business Thinker - Wall Street Journal



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## The TCL E-Leadership Resource What is Your Moral Imperative?

Seldom do I digress from using scripture as the basis for a Christian leadership lesson. However, in this case we will be pointed back to the Gospel.

In 2003 I spent 10 days in the poorest country on earth, Sierra Leone. I spent the 10 days teaching current pastors and aspiring students at The Evangelical College of Theology. As I finished teaching on the final day, one seasoned pastor and one student approached me together to express their gratitude and to tell me that I had "transformed their lives". Seeing that I was a bit uncomfortable with that statement they proceeded to further explain that I had "washed away their prejudice toward business people". They told me that a wave of surprise had raced through the college when it was learned that an American businessman was coming to the college to teach. "You see, we have become to despise business people" was their words of further explanation. Anyone who has seen the movie "Blood Diamond" might understand how even the local pastors could become full of contempt for business people during a very trying time after 10 years of civil war.

After 5 more trips to West Africa, it is also evident that in poor developing countries, the pastor becomes the community leader and spokesman for its people. He then feels responsible for teaching social justice. His positional influence is raised to the point that many of the unemployed view the pastorate as a means of escaping poverty and gaining power. Now the motives to become a pastor expand and the quality of the preaching pastor declines.

Now I have a couple of questions for you.

If our economy did continue to decline, what is the resulting attitude toward some of us as business leaders? What is the resulting motives or additional temptations of the aspiring pastor or ministry leader?

Could it be that if our economy does continue to decline that what I experienced in Africa would eventually be experienced here? Could our economy decline to the point that our Christian business owners are despised? Oh, I hope not but what can we do? I believe that the respect and influence of business leaders could decline proportionally to the increase in unemployment and vice versa for ministry leaders. Simply for this reason. As the distance between the rich and poor increases, and as more people find themselves in unemployed and helpless condition, their view of those who remain financially content will diminish, whether it is deserved or not.

And it is here my friends, that the author and speaker Gary Hamill consciously or unconsciously articulated the solution. We as Christian business people must have a vision that is kingdom minded, so that if and when economic decline occurs, we won't be despised for our success. If our economy would recover, I believe we would be even better off.

If you don't know what kind of kingdom vision that could be, start with a moral imperative. Begin by inserting the DNA of "helping the helpless" into your company and life vision.

You will enjoy the benefits of obedience while your character will point those who watch you to the gospel.

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