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BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITY IN  
NIGERIAN BUSINESS PRACTICES

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## ABSTRACT

The people of God everywhere and in every kindred in the world are the soul and conscience of any nation where they find themselves. They are not there by accident, but by God's own design, to act as checks and balances upon the moral, social, religious and ethical excesses of any of such nation and people. As custodians of God's revealed will and Word, they have the divine mandate to bring to bear His Word in every matter of human relationship. The growth of evil in any society in which people of God live shows lapses of the application of God's requirements.

It is worth noting and emphasizing here that God's revealed will is not only limited and applicable to the Jewish nation as people of God, past, present or future, but that its implication is for all nations and all people past, present and future. Moreover, the application of God's will is to extend to embrace all aspects of life, the economic life inclusive.

In the beginning of the creation of all things, God created man with an economic understanding. Thus, human work is God's gift and not to be viewed as punishment (cf. Genesis 2:15). Whereas man is created as a responsible human being, though free, he is responsible and

accountable to God for all actions. God requires that His purpose and will for creating business relationships be done as expected and according to the guidance of His Holy Spirit. Labour thus, should be seen as God sharing a part of His responsibility to care for the world He made. It is a normal part of the legitimate responsibility of the people of God to be involved in economic activities.

The will of God being done is then, the responsibility of God's people everywhere, whom He has chosen out of darkness into His wonderful light to live a lifestyle that demonstrates the fact that God is at work through them. Thus, God's given spiritual, moral, rational, and social responsibility must be corporately applied in daily living in all business relationship. For living in a crooked and perverse business environment does not justify dishonesty.

Consequently, biblical requirements as responsibility are indispensable and inevitable in Nigerian business practices, because of the many undeniable glaring benefits and changes it has brought to Nigeria since decades of contact with its principles and teachings. The extent of the problems, their causes, effects and suggested solutions and recommendations presented by this study are challenges for encouraging the application of biblical teachings in the business practices, in contemporary Nigerian society.

The Church of Christ in Nigeria cannot shy away from its significant role of helping through its living biblical tradition, to restore back to Nigeria a reflection of God's will in business practices. All God-given means and resources at its disposal must be used to demonstrate its being the 'light' and 'salt' of Nigeria. That is, their influence must help to permeate their world with the principles and teachings exemplified by Jesus Christ in every way.

It is an unalloyed fact that business practices touch the life of all Nigerians. They are either involved as producers, distributors or consumers of goods and services. This involves real relationships with different personalities. This also offers opportunities for missions and evangelism. The most unfortunate thing is that, much is left to be desired of business practices in Nigeria. Hence, the challenge to people of God is to be up and doing to help transform the business life of Nigeria to what God intends it to be, according to revealed biblical, moral, and ethical principles. Being discouraged is cowardice, and being involved is moral crookedness, missing the mark and rebellion against God's revealed will.

It is no doubt that, Nigeria can change for better in business relationships, when church members fulfill their responsibilities of seeing that just and fair dealings reign supreme in business connections moment

by moment in their various vocations of life. This calls for a response to God; it calls for a reflection upon the revealed will of God, and it calls for an action personally and corporately, that will help realize and revitalize God's code of conduct in business relationship. May God help us to recall our business practices, seek after real happiness which is right relationship with Him, look beyond our present immoral way by the power of the Holy Spirit to apply biblical principles and teachings in our daily business relationships. Amen and Amen.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

The moral and religious lapses of our time, our missions and evangelism mandate, misplaced stewardship obligation, the reality of God's judgement on malpractices, breach of Nigeria's national pledge, and the threat of economic laxity to social and national progress pose a challenge for urgent establishment of justice in business practices in Nigeria.

The biblical responsibility in Nigeria business practices is a call for prudent application of God's principles and teachings as revealed in the Holy Scriptures and its adoption as exemplified by Jesus Christ's life in all business relationships. The character of Jesus Christ being the suggested paradigm for all desired business practices, the people of God in Nigeria has it as a responsibility, to be conscious of biblical teachings.

The highlight of the problems, causes and effects of business practices in Nigeria, and biblical and historical principles and teachings as this study has shown, serve as useful guidelines for the application of biblical responsibility in Nigerian business relationships. It is the role of the Church to encourage the application of codes of conduct that affect the judicious implementation of all biblical principles, teachings and practices in the business life of Nigeria.

