

## Common Business Destroyers

### Proverbs 31:15-29

She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants. 16She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

17She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. 18She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. 19In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. 20She opens her arms to the poor

and extends her hands to the needy. 21When it snows, she has no fear for her household;

for all of them are clothed in scarlet. 22She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. 23Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. 24She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the

merchants with sashes. 25She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. 26She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. 27She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. 28Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 29“Many women do noble things,

but you surpass them all.”

#### 1. Separating business and faith

##### Deuteronomy 8:17-19

Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' 18"But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. 19"It shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish....

##### Matthew 6:32-34

For the pagans pursue all these things, and your Heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you. 34Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Today has enough trouble of its own....

- a. God anoints you for business
- b. Business is not evil
- c. Don't feel guilty about making money

- d. Present your business to God so He establishes
  - e. Make God your Senior Partner
  - f. Covenant your business with God.
2. Having a Vision that's too small
- a. Great entrepreneurs have a desire to achieve
  - b. Don't relax when you have enough to cover your expenses. Was that your goal?
  - c. Develop a vision for what you will do with the money (Provision is for the vision).
3. Unwilling to take any risks
- a. Great entrepreneurs take calculated risks
  - b. Some people are so cautious so they only step out if they are guaranteed success
4. Running out of ideas
- a. Dream with God
  - b. Entrepreneurs turn ideas into profitable realities
  - c. Ideas are often linked to value adds
5. Not commanding value
- a. Business is about commanding value
  - b. What can you do to increase your worth to your clients?
  - c. How good are you?
  - d. What can you do to increase your credibility?
6. Cash-flow issues
- a. Not getting paid on time
  - b. Small businesses fail largely because of cash-flow issues
7. Pricing inaccurately
- a. Often this is due to low self image
  - b. A kingdom business needs to be profitable
8. Entering into unhealthy partnerships
- a. ungodly alliances
  - b. they bring limited value
  - c. you are not free to give with a kingdom agenda
  - d. often due to lack of confidence

**9. Being double-minded**

- a. A lot of people go into business in two minds (what business should I go into? Is this the right timing? This affects their prayers.)

**10. Lack of agreement**

- Agreement with business partners
- Spousal support
- Agreement in prayer (sometimes people are fearful of juju so they don't share with anyone)

**11. Mistreating your employees and customers**

- a. This is a subtle form of abuse
- b. Develop a strong philosophy around this eg "we will grow together"
- c. Treat your staff how you want them to treat your customers

**12. Unwillingness to re-invest profits into your business**

- a. Make sure you invest in the things that cause business growth in this season  
Eg having a fancy office might not be as effective as investing in marketing in this season. Having a hefty salary for yourself immediately might not be as effective as hiring the best technical specialists in your field.

**13. Poor timing**

- a. Leaving formal employment too soon or too late
- b. Miscalculating the savings you need
- c. Hiring people too early (unnecessarily large staff complement)

**14. Not hiring effectively**

- a. Not according to your weakness
- b. Halo effect in hiring
- c. Hiring relatives to rescue them
- d. There is a fine line between job creation endeavours and a welfare mentality

**15. Allocating your time poorly**

- a. Spend most of your time doing what you are good at
- b. The things that you loathe are loved by someone out there
- c. Think of outsourcing

**16. Neglecting your family**

**17. Giving up too soon**

- a. Entrepreneurs are tenacious
- b. Many businesses get off the ground after a few tries

**18. Assigning blame inaccurately**

- a. Often the cause of business failure is incorrectly diagnosed
- b. For example, witchcraft is blamed yet your business is failing because of your poor management skills.
- c. Take ownership and change how you are doing business

**19. Failing to apply energy into sales and marketing**

- a. Your business will only work if people out there know about you
- b. Be courageous and learn to sell with great energy

**20. Having no conviction about your product**

- a. Are you a product of your product?
- b. Do people really need it?
- c. Is it aligned with your values? if not, then you will be double-minded.

**21. Failing to manage multiple streams of income**

- a. Some people have limited themselves by only having one income stream
- b. Some have limited themselves by having their income tied to their time
- c. The entrepreneur needs to know what his primary business is

**22. Failing to manage business success**

- a. Your business success cannot compensate for your moral failure.
- b. Just because you provide for your family does not mean you don't have to tell your wife when you will be late.
- c. Don't change just because you are now giving a lot eg Because I give a lot it means I have graduated from small group or church attendance. You are called to business but still a member of the church and a Christian disciple.

**23. Unfaithfully serving others as an employee**

**Luke 16:10-12**

**Whoever is faithful with very little will also be faithful with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11If, then, you have not been faithful with worldly wealth, who will entrust you with true riches? 12And if you have not been faithful with the belongings of another, who will give you belongings of your own?...**

- a. **If you are planning to go into business make sure you serve faithfully that which belongs to others now.**

**24. Being in bondage to mammon**

**Luke 16:13-14**

**13No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” 14The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all of this and were scoffing at Jesus....**

**“Don’t stay in a business that you can never leave.”**