

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Opening: Video by Les and verse one and chorus of “Takin’ Care of Business” by Bachman Turner Overdrive.

Sermon Series – Taking Care of Business,
Sermon #1 – Who’s Business is it?

After listening to Bachman Turner Overdrive play “Takin’ Care of Business” I thought I would get up like Ellen DeGeneres does on her Television show. You know, dancing up the isle? Well, aren’t you glad I didn’t do that?

There are a couple reasons why I would start my sermon with this classic rock song from 1974. The first is when I decided on the title of the series, I immediately thought of this song, I was a teenager in the 70s. You get that beat and melody in your head and you can’t sit still or get it out. “Pastor, what are you doing, (dancing around)?” Well, I’m working on my sermon.

Let me ask... How many of you are self-employed? Well, how about those lyrics in the song, “working at nothing all day” Would you agree that you work at nothing all day? Yes, that is a joke. It paints a pretty grim picture of work. The beat and melody line is great, the idea is sad. You see, taking care of business ought to produce joy and be part of a greater purpose.

In this series we will explore the business of life:

- 1. Whose business is it?**
- 2. Am I responsible for creation?**
- 3. Is it my life or not?**
- 4. Who’s keeping track of the time?**
- 5. This is my money, isn’t it?**
- 6. My talents are supposed to benefit me aren’t they?**
- 7. Does anyone want to hear my testimony?**
- 8. I don’t need to join a church do I?**

Let’s look at the question for today, “Who’s business is it?”

Psalm 24

1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

2 for he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the waters.

The point of the Word of God from beginning to the end is, everything is God's. It's not my business, it's God's. I am a business manager; I am not a business owner.

The Biblical term for this is stewardship. Stewardship is the responsibility of managing some assets or affairs or property of someone else's."

Stewardship is managing something that isn't your own.

In Gen. 1:1 we see that In the beginning God made everything.

After five days everything in the earth was made except...people. So God formed people. The creation of people was different than the creation of animals.

Follow along in Gen. 1:26-27

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, ^[b] and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

We are different in character: we made in the image or likeness of God

We are different in our job description: we are to subdue, rule and care for all the rest of creation. We are managers of everything God made. We are jr. partners with God.

If we can get this principle, life will immediately begins to make sense and go easier.

When we begin to act like the world is ours and we can do with it what we like, we get into trouble. This is the whole issue of creation. We are called to rule over, but to be a wise manager of the land, air, sea, vegetation, the animals etc.

When we begin to act like life is ours and we can make it and take it when we like, we get into trouble. The error of the pro-choice movement is at this very point, it's not your body, it's God's. This is the issue with sexual issues. It's not your body, it's God's.

When we begin to act like time is ours and we are in control we get into great trouble. We don't get to own time and dictate it for our life. When we acknowledge that it is God's and we are to manage it according to his plan than we are well along the way to happiness and efficiency.

I hear this all the time. "Sunday is the only time we have to _____" (you fill in the blank). Generally people nod their heads and agree. Why doesn't anyone stop them gently and remind them that it's not their time, it is God's and has something to say about how we use our time.

When we get to the issues of talents and money it is the same thing. If we approach it like it is ours to do with as we want, then we are in trouble. Now, it is very true that some churches, many high profile tv ministries push and cajol for money constantly, and I agree with people being turned off by this.

But listen to the statement that you have probably heard many times, "All they want is my money." What is word that indicates a problem? MY. When people approach money as mine, then any time a preacher or Sunday school teacher reads a scripture about tithing or giving they are going to get bent.

This whole series is going to tick you off, if you are approaching the business of life from the standpoint of it's mine. Let me repeat that again. "This series is going to upset you if you are approaching the business of life from the standpoint of "It's mine."

So whose business is it? God's.

God is the owner and we are the stewards or managers; in every area of life.

When we get this through our stubborn heads and hearts, then amazing things happen.

Our happiness will be in direct proportion to our faithfulness in managing God's business.

Our blessings will be in direct proportion to our faithfulness in managing God's business.

When we take care of business God's way, God's takes care of us.