

PROFIT AND THE COMMON GOOD

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Abstract

Christianity makes the radical claim that our common good—the good by which we are truly human and happy—is for us to be conformed, not to the world of man or even to that of nature, but to God and specifically to Jesus Christ who is God Incarnate. In this article I ask whether this common good can be realized in business organizations that are dedicated primarily to the purpose of making money. Finding, with Jesus Christ, that one cannot serve both God and Mammon, I describe how profit-centered business denies the human happiness that God intends. Business must instead be for the purpose of glorifying God, which it can be only by adhering to the Word and Way of Jesus Christ. This is where a true business ethic can begin.