

## Opportunities to Pursue the *JBIB* Mission

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“The *Journal of Biblical Integration in Business (JBIB)* serves as a refereed forum for discussing faith-learning-life links in business. It is committed to the proposition that "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (II Timothy 3:16-17)...” ([http://cbfa.org/html/journal\\_of\\_biblical\\_integration\\_in\\_business.html](http://cbfa.org/html/journal_of_biblical_integration_in_business.html))

Building on the faith integration scholarship that has been produced thus far by other scholars, as published in *JBIB* and in other settings, what are ways that this mission might be advanced? Listed below (in no particular order of priority) are some of the ways in which authors can advance the *JBIB* mission by writing and submitting articles:

- on the topic of **faith integration**:
  - What is faith integration: An end state or a process? If it is a process, what do we know about it?
  - What is the meaning of the term integration?
  - The various approaches to faith integration effort and the tradeoffs of each.
  - Dangers and pitfalls in the faith integration process
  - Faith integration as a process of
    - epistemology
    - justification, conversion
    - sanctification, character development

- theology (Note: The new editor believes that, compared with other areas of theology, the field of “biblical theology” holds more promise to make further advances in understanding the biblical perspective on a variety of business topics. It helps scholars avoid getting stuck in the contests among competing denominations. It is one important solution to the problem of “proof-texting.”)
  - hermeneutics
  - ethics
- Comparing the contributions to faith integration efforts from various Christian circles of thought and **theological traditions**.
- on faith integration as seen from the perspective of **four levels of analysis**:
  - Individual: Actions taken that have an impact on other individuals.
  - Organizational: Actions taken that have an impact on the organization.
  - Professional; Industrial: Actions taken that have an impact on the profession.
  - Political-Economic system: Actions taken that have an impact on the economic system as a whole.
- that study **Biblical Integration vs. Biblical Foundation**. Should we attempt synthesis of two perspective that are equal in authority (some view the concept of integration this way) or believing that the Bible and business are not two perspectives of equal authority but that the Bible is the foundation for business thinking and practice.
- that foster **dialogue** between:
  - practicing business professionals and clergy

- business scholars and biblical scholars or clergy
- that result from Christian business scholars/authors who **collaborate** with:
  - Scholar(s) from another business discipline
  - Scholar(s) from another academic discipline outside of business that shares an interest in faith integration
  - Bible scholars, theologians, clergy
  - Practicing business professionals
- that study the opportunities and problems of business as an appropriate setting for:
  - **evangelism**. If so, given legal and cultural constraints, how?
  - **apologetics**. If so, how? How can typical business experiences be used to “defend the faith” with persons who are adherents to other religions, agnostics or atheists? One debatable question: Is business an appropriate setting for apologetics? Why or why not? What are the most promising “points of contact” between business and Christian apologetics?
  - **religious dialogue**. How might Christians in business be better listeners with persons from other religions?
- that study the problem of **biblical illiteracy** and point the way toward solutions
  - How might the business scholar contribute to solution of the problem of biblical literacy among students?
  - How might biblical illiteracy be addressed among practicing business professionals?
- that explore “**threshold concepts**” necessary to advance the integration process.

- that evaluate a business “**school of thought**” from the perspective of Scripture and theology.
- that study dimensions of **personal religious experience** observed in the context of business practice.
- on **business history** and faith integration in practice. For examples,
  - Paradox of being a Christian “Robber Baron” in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - Christian influences on the Scientific Management Movement
- that evaluate the **assumptions** of a business discipline evaluated through the lens of theological frameworks.
- on **hermeneutics** (principles of biblical interpretation):
  - the use of Scripture by business scholars;
  - problems and pitfalls in biblical hermeneutics applied by business practitioners and business scholars;
  - how knowledge of business and economics can enhance the understanding of Scripture.
- that deal with **empirical research** such as articles on
  - the biblical foundations, philosophical principles and problems with **empirical research** in business
  - the experience of young adult Christian business professionals in terms of faith integration and business ethics.
  - how business students (graduates and undergraduates) view faith integration efforts in the classroom; how business students view faith integration efforts in practice.

- The factors that influence faith integration efforts in business practice: for examples, Religious beliefs regarding: Purpose of the faith community, definition of outreach, the nature of faith, Organizational culture
  - many other research questions
- on standard **business topics** that deserve further study from the biblical point of view.

These are just examples:

- TQM
- Certainty and uncertainty in business
- Competition
- Innovation & Creativity
- Decision making
- Equality
- Human Resources Management
- Incentives
- Motivation Theories
- Planning
- Risk management
- Self-interest
- Success
- Technology
- Value
- Time
- Ethical dilemmas

- Power
- Calling / vocation
  
- on selected **Scripture passages**:
  - Economic Parables of Jesus
  - Economic perspective of a selected book of the Bible
  - Biblical narratives that include business and economic dimensions
  - Difficult or interesting passages relating to business
  - Bible characters, their experiences and the implications for business
  - Biblical themes relevant to business
  - Biblical metaphors and imagery relevant to business
  
- book **reviews** and media reviews on recently published products relevant to biblical integration in business.

The above list is intended to be illustrative not comprehensive. A variety of issues remain to be studied. The editor hopes that this list will spark more ideas which might be developed in pursuit of the mission of *JBIB*.

Send article submissions and ideas for articles to:

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