



Discussion Guide

Bob Doll: My Life as a Christian, Investor, and Business Leader

Business for the Common Good On-Demand

Bob's professional journey has featured some high-profile disappointments, including a humiliating exit from a powerful investment firm, which Bob remembers as "stinging failure." With a lot of time and some hard soul-searching, he was able to salvage some valuable lessons in the aftermath. Name a professional failure or disappointment you've endured in your professional life. What did the experience teach you about your identity, control, community, or partnership and accountability?

"Money can't make you happy," Bob cracks, "but everyone wants to find out for themselves." It's a joke and it's not. As Bob explains, one of the great challenges of investing Christianly is the ever-present lure of wealth. Jesus warns his followers of the dangers of money quite explicitly, and yet we tend to ignore him. As Bob says, the data shows that there is no appreciable difference between the giving habits of Christians and non-Christians.

How have you felt the pull of wealth in your professional life? What are some concrete practices you can institute to limit money's power over you? What are some ways that you can cultivate a sense of contentment?

In the end, Bob's advice for Christians in the marketplace is to be an "A" at work and not a "C+". After all, "If Christians are C+ at work, who's going to want to imitate the rest of our lives." While there is no one formula for Christians in business to follow, Bob does suggest that Christians should live biblically, conduct themselves with integrity, and find ways to share Jesus, among other things.

Spend a few minutes taking an honest look at your professional life. Where are you a "C+"? What changes do you need to make to bring this grade up to an "A"?