I’ve only known the Lord for four years and four months, so for me I had no idea that people compartmentalized God. For me I got saved and my life began to change and I knew that after searching literally the earth over that I had found the real deal, the happiness and contentment that had been missing from my life. As I opened my heart wider and wider to Jesus, I learned that He wanted to be involved in my whole life. He didn’t want to be confined to only where I felt it was safe to share Him. In Mark 12 vs 30 we find Jesus says (commands):

“And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.”

That’s powerful and it’s a command. To me that verse says that God wants to lead in all aspects of my life and even go to the office with me. Yet I talk to people all the time who tell me that they don’t like to discuss their faith and that they never mix God and business. What a shame. I’ve learned that God is the best business partner that you can have, and I don’t believe that you can be a Christian in corporate America and compartmentalize your faith.

When Wayne Sr. began to see the changes that were occurring in my life and when he heard me begin to share why these changes were occurring, he sat me down one day and suggested that since I was so enthusiastic about God that maybe I should leave the business world and go to seminary and become a pastor. To Dad this was a logical step, and it wasn’t the first time that I had heard it, but I knew that I was called to the business world and that we are instructed to take God to the marketplace where those that may never enter a church can see God at work also. As Christians we all have a calling and we need to bring Christ with us.

2. How do we live out the Ten Commandments at work?

First, not all the Ten Commandments are as pertinent in this discussion, but let’s review the ones that are undeniable.

A. You shall have no other God before me and no graven image or any likeness of anything.

You are all in higher education so as to have a choice of career path. Hopefully you’ve chosen a career that you will enjoy. If that’s true as it is for me the danger is that you fall in love with your job. Now that’s not bad but God still needs to come first in your life and then the needs of your family, if you’re going to have one, should come next. You see, the workplace is where you spend most of your time, where rewards are often immediate and very tangible, you’re surrounded with others who are like-minded, and often you have power and authority. There are times that it’s more attractive to stay there and work on a project as opposed to going home to the family and the struggles that can ensue. The same is true for the potential of missing Bible
studies or being too tired to get up and have morning devotions and time with God. You will find
that at home results can be long in coming, often are intangible and often hard to measure. But
God very clearly calls us first to relationship with Him, secondly to our spouse and family, and
then to the workplace. Therefore our life’s priorities must reflect that. When we start putting
work before God we’ve broken the first and second commandments—yes the second as well.
Almost every corporation has a logo that represents them, a graven image that receives worship,
your time before God.

I struggle with this constantly. I love my work, it’s exciting, and I’m the President of our
company so I have the illusion of power and authority. However, I have set aside one day a
week—Tuesday, to spend at church in fellowship and in study with my mentor who is the
executive pastor there. I have reserved this day and have made it known to my assistant and all at
our office that this is a special day and that unless mayhem has broken loose I’m not to be
disturbed. You see I have found that when I dedicate time to allow God to invest in me I am
better able to do His will. When I am in His will, He in turn blesses me, personally and
professionally. I also drive my children to school three days a week and meet them for lunch on
one of those days. I am home three nights a week for a sit-down family dinner, and I reserve one
day of the weekend strictly for family time. Some question how effective this use of my time is
but I have seen that as long as I am in God’s will that everything will get done.

B. Remember the Sabbath and to keep it Holy. Six days shall thou labor and do all thy work but
the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.

A lot of people have gotten caught up with Sunday being the day of rest and that we shouldn’t
work on that day, and if we don’t have to we shouldn’t. Nowadays though it’s much harder to
do, especially if you’re employed in the hospitality industry. I don’t think that it grieves God if
you have to work on Sunday as long as you take one day a week to rest, a day to recharge your
batteries and to reflect on how much God has done for you and to maybe do for another. This is a
day for you and for Him and for your family. A day to crash and rest. Not a day to try to jam
more into our already stress-filled hectic life.

At our house we attend worship services on Saturday night, and on Sunday we all take it easy. I
play with the kids, we read, we see friends and family and we serve each other. We focus on
being a family and share about how God has impacted our lives. No, it’s not like a Rockwell
painting, not with four kids ages 11, 9, 3, and 2. But it’s our time.

C. Thou shall not kill.

Now I’m not speaking in the literal sense, although it seems that there have been more work-
related killings in the last few years. I’m looking deeper than that, to the condition of your heart.
How do you feel about your competition and their sometimes under-handed dealings, or about
your fellow executive who steals your work product and takes it to the boss first? We all have
murderous thoughts now and again. Our responsibility is to ask God for forgiveness and a
change of heart.
D. Thou shall not steal.

This commandment surely is relevant given Enron and Tyco to name a couple. But there is a lot more theft going on than you would think. Even amongst the Christian community, yes the Christian community. Let’s look to the Bible for some guidance here. In Ephesians 6:5 we read:

“Servants, respectfully obey your earthly masters, but always with an eye to obeying the real master, Christ. Don’t just do what you have to do to get by, but work heartily, as Christ’s servants doing what God wants you to do.”

And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you’re really serving God. Good work will get you good pay from the Master, regardless of weather you are slave or free. Masters, it is the same with you. No abuse, please, and no threats. You and your servants are both under the same Master in Heaven. He makes no distinction between you and them. God wants us to work hard here on earth for our employers giving 100 percent for Him. We are being evaluated all the time as Christians, even how we work. We need to bring glory to God in all we do. Many employees come in late or take a few minutes extra at lunch or don’t give an hour’s work for an hour’s pay, or hold back their best effort because they feel that their not paid well enough or they don’t like the boss. That kind of behavior does not glorify God.

E. Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

We live in a world today that is driven to get ahead at almost any cost, most all believing that their next promotion or raise will help them to buy happiness. They’re wrong but it is still a powerful motive. Hopefully as Christians we are above outright slander, but we must be careful on a daily basis of how we portray our fellow workers amongst ourselves. It is easy to repeat gossip, or to vent our frustration with one another. While not intentional, the things we hear begin to shape opinions about others and what we share can cause the same to happen in another’s mind. As we gain power and authority it becomes more and more important to guard our tongue.

F. Thou shall not covet.

Wow, this is one of the hardest in business. I remember as a young man my father telling me while we were looking at a fast boat that there will always be one faster, one newer and one prettier and that was true for almost everything on earth. There is a fine line between working hard and smart and coveting. The line is crossed in my mind when God and family are left out in order to win. We see this so much in corporate life today, broken hearts, marriages, families, all because of a dream that had to become reality at all costs. Be careful to say never me, because it is an easy attractive trap to fall into. My wife is a Bio Medical and Electrical Engineer and she was moving up the corporate ladder at Proctor and Gamble some 18 years ago and before she was to receive a major promotion a wise mentor of hers told her, as she was single at the time, make sure this what you want as you will be moving every two years to a different manufacturing facility, and it’s either career track or mommy track practically speaking. He
counseled her to be sure there were no open doors of relationships in her past that she would miss. Fortunately we had been high school sweethearts for a summer and had kept in touch over the years, as she thought about it she worked up the courage to call me. As God would have it although neither of us new, it was His plan at the time that she turn down the promotion leave her career and marry me and make me the happiest man in the world. My point this, my wife Fonda had worked hard to get to that point so early in her career, had she coveted that position there would have been no time for reflection and I would have missed a great opportunity in my life.

What else does it take to be a Christian in corporate America? I don’t think that you can be ashamed of God. What I mean is, if a modern Roman army were to come looking for Christians would there be enough evidence to convict you? Would your fellow employees turn you in? Would they know? Would they suspect? Now I’m not saying that you need to wear your Christianity on your sleeve; your actions can speak as loud as your words. You need to pray and ask God how He would use you. He calls us all to be wise. I met a gentleman at a retreat who owns a number of large newspapers, and while He loves the Lord, he is less public about his faith because he doesn’t want his news papers to be labeled and possibly lose their subtle power, not so much as in what they say but by how they say it. On the other hand, God has shared with me that I’m to be bold and to be an encouragement to others; to share how He has changed my life and to use the public platform that He has given our family to share the Good News with other top influencers around the world. I lead prayer in our office at most of our meetings asking God to open our eyes to all the possibilities that exist and ask Him to guide our behavior. I can do that, but others might not be able to offer that prayer out loud; it could and should be made silently. Everything we have is God’s we are merely stewards of His resources so we need to seek His input for all our decisions including the ones at work.

While not everyone can pray publicly at work, God still calls us to be a light atop the hill. We can share our beliefs in many non-offensive ways such as giving God the glory when we succeed, inviting a co-worker to worship with us or to a Christian outreach. We should be involved in our community as the Lord leads in Christian causes, both financially and by offering our time. We used the influence that we have through the Miami Dolphins to partner publicly with Tyson Foods this past December to distribute 40,000 pounds of frozen chicken in our area. In addition we provided a little booklet with the Dolphins logo on it. In that booklet were seven football players sharing how Jesus had changed their lives, with a clear Gospel presentation in the back. It cost very little to print the booklet and John Tyson was already going to give the food away, but through our partnership with God, ten thousand people received food and many lives were changed.

In March 2002, I was blessed to have the privilege of co-chairing Beach Fest, a two-day Christian music festival in conjunction with the Luis Palau Ministry. The Miami Dolphins and our family co-labored with 60 other corporations and numerous private givers in the South Florida area to underwrite this event. As a result more than 300,000 people heard the gospel clearly presented on Fort Lauderdale Beach, and 10,000 lives were changed for all of eternity. Corporate America made that event possible. Christians who weren’t afraid to be counted made that possible. Thousands of others from the corporate community came alongside to selflessly serve those two days. We are the Body and together we can make a difference.
In conclusion, we need balance in our lives to be able to serve God. God is blessing you with a tremendous education. He will bless you with a position in corporate America where you can make a difference as a Christian. The only question is, will you? Will you make the time, will you take the perceived risk, will you step out of your comfort zone to serve an awesome God and to help change lives? If you will, I believe God will reward you richly personally and professionally. If you give Him the Glory your rewards will also be tremendous in Heaven. We have all been given more than the majority of the world. And the fact that you are attending this institution of higher learning is another incredible blessing. You are not here by chance. You have the ability to help change the world, one soul at a time; the question is, are you up for the challenge?

To me, being a Christian in corporate America means realizing how incredibly blessed we are to have such a position. Acknowledging that, yes, we worked hard to get here, but that God allowed us to be here and that we have a responsibility to God to use our place of influence for Him and not for ourselves. To bring Glory to God every day in all our actions, a responsibility to not shrink back from the challenges that He unfolds ahead of us every day. Choose this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my business, we shall serve the Lord. What about you?
Thank you.