

# Monday Manna: Going Beyond What The Law Requires

by Rick Boxx

When you think about the rules and regulations that affect you in the workplace, whether they are broad-based laws that apply to everyone or statutes that were designed specifically for your industry or profession, how do you deal with them?

Do you comply only to the minimum extent required, choosing to abide strictly to the “letter of the law,” or would you consider the sometimes broader “spirit of the law” – the underlying and sometimes more demanding intent behind it?

For years I have consulted with business and professional leaders, helping them to grasp and understand biblical principles that apply to the everyday marketplace. When I began doing this, it became evident that to avoid the danger of not practicing what I was teaching, I had to do an honest “self-appraisal.” This included examining my life for any past issues that I ignored or had not properly resolved. To be honest, doing this can be humbling and uncomfortable, but I felt it was necessary and important for my integrity as a consultant.

I became convicted about a small, unpaid corporate debt from a previous business I had owned.

Although the financial obligation was corporate, and legally I had no personal responsibility, God made it clear that He wanted all of my business dealings to be beyond reproach.

As a result, I tracked down the business that was still owed money by my former company and sent them a check for the proper amount. The owners were more than surprised – they were amazed. They called not only to thank me but also to tell me that since the debt had been written off and removed from their financial records, they donated the payment to a local church.

Without question, I could have overlooked the unpaid debt. It was a legally constructed corporate entity – a business that no longer existed – that technically owed the money. Since my personal finances were not involved in any way, legally I had no responsibility. That was what the *letter of the law* would have said. However, as a follower of Jesus Christ, committed to living and working with integrity, I could not use that excuse. The *spirit of the law*, I knew, would have said differently.

How could I speak with and advise leaders in the workplace about honesty and integrity if I were not willing to hold myself to the same standards?

In the Bible’s New Testament, Ephesians 5:3 teaches, *“But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.”* God’s standards – as He reveals in the Scriptures – often exceed the law, but if we are to be effective and credible as His ambassadors, it is essential for us to live accordingly.

My purpose is not to put anyone under a guilt trip. However, if God brings to your mind something you have done that should be corrected – or something you need to do – I urge you to follow through on that as soon as possible. Even if it means going beyond what the law requires. You will not regret it.

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