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Don't Let A Home Business Cost You Your Family

By Craig Binkley

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by: **Craig Binkley**

Does the title of this article sound funny to you? To some, it may not only seem funny but downright silly. To others, it may be offensive also. On the surface, it does sound like a funny topic for an article. When we look deeper, it can be a very serious problem that needs to be addressed.

Now I'm sure that most of us have either heard, or even personally known a family that has been damaged because the husband/father pours all of his time and efforts into a job or career. His wife never sees him. His children don't know him. He may try to make up for it with all kinds of "worldly" gifts, when all the while what is really needed is him to be there.

I know what you are thinking. This couldn't, or shouldn't, happen with a home based business. I am here to tell you that it not only can, but also it does. It doesn't matter if the husband/father is devoting all his time to his career away from the home or tucked away in his cozy office at home. The outcome is going to be the same.

The question that needs to be asked is "How can a father/husband run a home based business, at times while still working full-time outside the home, without causing irreparable damage to his marriage and family?" Hopefully, the following things will help him keep his priorities in line and not be "sucked in" to the "succeed at all costs" mentality that is so prevalent in this day and age.

1) The most important recommendation I can offer, the reason it is at the top of my list, is to trust in God to provide. If we learn to trust HIM rather than feeling that is all up to us, the better off we will be (I used to struggle with this BIG time).

2) If you are building a home business while working outside the home, you MUST understand that your family needs you. I'm not talking about being able to purchase the newest home video center to keep everyone busy either. Set aside some time to spend with the family. Make your wife feel special (surprise her with a rose) and remember that you kids are only kids FOR A SHORT WHILE.

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3) Set your goals according to the items listed in #2 above. Don't let your goals run your life. Goals are important, but they are worthless if you lose your family in the pursuit of them.

4) Try to get your wife and/or children involved in your business. The home should be a place of commerce. Children are a blessing, not a curse. Let them bless your business. Our oldest daughter has designed her own line of jewelry that we sell on our website. It started as a hobby, and then naturally progressed into a small business. Let your children do things for you, even if it is just filing papers or searching a topic on the Internet that you may need. Make them feel like they are a part of the business and it will go a long way to keeping your family together.

There are many other things that can be done to keep your home business from adversely affecting your marriage and family life. Some of them are OBVIOUS while others are not. A good rule of thumb is to remember that your family should be the most important thing in your life next to your relationship

with God. If you keep this in mind, and work your business with this as your primary "goal", not only will you not cause damage, but I truly believe you will be blessed in whatever endeavor you are undertaking.

Craig Binkley - husband, father and home business owner assisting in the restoration of the "traditional" family through home business ownership.

Being a Disciplined Home Business Boss

By Lawrence Roth

Leaving the corporate world for a home business is exciting. Being one's own boss and making one's own decisions is a great feeling. However, one still needs to have discipline to be effective at being a home business boss. In my home business I have found at least two things that one must be persistently disciplined about in order to achieve success.

First is the work schedule. A home business like any business requires work and often a lot of work. While it is true you do not have to get up at daybreak and put on a suit and tie to drive to work, one does need to set a work schedule and stick to it. I have set my schedule to work 8 to 5 Monday through Friday. I take an hour for lunch. I require myself to work a minimum of forty hours a week for my home business.

When I first started my home business it was easy to become distracted by things that need to be done around the house: laundry, dirty dishes, mowing the yard, etc. It is very important to treat the home business like a regular job and in reality it is a regular job, it just happens to be in the home. If you were working for someone else they would not tolerate you going home to clean dishes or mow the yard, so to be a disciplined home business boss and do not allow yourself to do things other than working on your home business.

The second is in regards to interruptions. I have found it absolutely amazing that family and friends

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seem to think that just because you stay a home during the day that you have nothing else to do. When I first started working at home I was surprised at the many requests my family and friends had of my time. My best advice, which was given to me by another home business worker, is, "If they are not on fire or if they are not bleeding they do not need your attention." Now don't take the statement literally but what it basically means is, unless it is a real emergency do not let your family and friends interrupt your work schedule.

For those of you who already have your home business, you are aware of the many requests that family and friends will make such as fixing their sink, driving them to their airport or watching their kids while they go to the grocery store. If you are not already assertive, learn to be and learn quickly. Fortunately, I have had the assertiveness to say, "No."

If you spend your time being the "go-for" for your family and friends, your business will fail. You are not at home to be at the beck and call for your family and friends regardless of what they may think. Let them know that. I stubbornly refuse to assist family and friends with tasks during the hours of 8 to 5, Monday through Friday.

Being a disciplined home business boss a giant leap towards creating and maintaining a successful home business. Remember that your home business is a real business. It is a real job. Most importantly, it is your livelihood.

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