



Depth Perception

Commentary from Design For Ministry™

A chasm between faith and responsibility



Ned J. Kiser, consultant

Last issue we excerpted Ned Kiser's e-book *The Life of the Steward*, recently released by Design Group Publishing.

Depth Perception is released in several formats, one of which misquoted the text and read "I am trying to say that capitalism is inherently evil."

The word NOT should have appeared in the sentence. We regret this error and apologize to Ned and our readers.

We do not regret publishing this fine piece, however, and commend it to you for individual and group study.

Call us at 877.771.3330 to order a .pdf, or simply download from your favorite e-bookstore. The book is a mere \$8.

Such a deep separation exists between the language of faith and the language of fiscal responsibility that one wonders if it is a chasm no human may cross (*with a nod to Luke 16:26*).

The language of faith says:

God will provide!

and

We have to put a challenge in front of our people!

and

What if God calls us to do something that goes beyond our plans?

The language of fiscal responsibility says:

Do we have the money for this?

and

We should pay our bills before we incur new ones.

and

Is it in the budget?

When fiscal responsibility hears faith say "Yes!" it is thought irresponsible.

When faith hears fiscal responsibility ask how something will be paid for, what is heard is "No!"

The faith orientation thinks that fiscal responsibility is tight fisted. The fiscal responsibility orientation thinks faith spends money without thought.

This tension is often found between the development and finance functions of a congregation, a Christian ministry or a non-profit organization. It also can mark the difference between the entrepreneur and her banker.

We think there is a bridge across the chasm and we enjoy helping organizations build it. In truth, both faith and fiscal responsibility are needed to run a sustainable organization. This bridge is expressed in one simple question. If answered seriously and strategically, the question makes a significant difference in the health of an organization.

What helps us fulfill our mission next year too?

-mark I vincent