

The Truth about Money

Morally Responsible Investing

Does God expect us to avoid immoral practices in our investments? Let me elaborate.

Some companies are involved in business practices that most Christians consider to be immoral. No, I'm not talking about CEO pay packages. I'm referring to the abortion industry (yes, it is a billion dollar industry), also pornography, "alternative" lifestyles, and anti-family entertainment. Even the alcohol, tobacco, and gambling industries may be considered to be immoral because of the destruction they can cause in people's lives. These companies may be perfectly legal, but are they moral?

You may be profiting from one or more of these industries. How? You may own stocks – individually or within funds – that do business in these areas. Other companies may make corporate contributions to support these immoral activities, such as family planning organizations that promote abortions as an acceptable "choice". If you own stocks in these companies, you are not only profiting from them, but they are also benefiting from your investment.

So, should you avoid investing in these companies? There is no easy answer to this question. God calls on us to live in this world but not be of this world. He also tells us to not conform to this world, but rather "be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2), and to "Avoid every kind of evil" (1 Thess 5:22). In 1 Timothy 5:22, Paul says "...do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure". However, companies can be moral but be filled with immoral employees, who would benefit from our investments too. As you can see, this is a matter for prayer and meditation.

If you decide to consider morally responsible investing, you should first start with a moral evaluation of your current investments. Some financial advisors can provide this for you. As always, if you need assistance, feel free to contact us at Covenant Financial Planning.

The author, Stephen Werner, is a Registered Investment Advisor Representative and president of Covenant Financial Planning. He has been in the financial advisory field for 20 years, and lectures on topics relating to Biblical Stewardship and Biblically Responsible Investing. He holds securities and insurance licenses in several states.

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