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By Don Overcash

The Perils of Foolish Entanglements

In a fast-paced and increasingly complex world, staying focused on our primary mission is essential—not just for success in business or relationships but, most importantly, for faithfulness in our walk with Christ. Scripture repeatedly warns believers against becoming entangled in trivial or destructive distractions that draw us away from our God-given purpose. As Paul cautioned Timothy, “No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him” (2 Timothy 2:4).

Our calling as disciples of Jesus is to know Him, obey Him, and make Him known—“to make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Foolish entanglements can cloud that mission, dull our spiritual focus and weaken our witness.

In business, success often depends on maintaining clarity of purpose. A company that loses sight of its core mission quickly falters. The same is true in spiritual life. Many Christians begin their faith journey with a sincere desire to serve God through their work—modeling integrity, stewardship, and care for others. Yet over time, the pursuit of recognition, wealth, or influence can subtly replace that original devotion.

Consider a tech startup launched to revolutionize online education with a passion for making learning accessible. As the company grows, its leaders become tempted by side ventures and flashy partnerships that have little to do with their founding vision. The same danger faces believers who chase secondary ambitions at the expense of God’s calling. Jesus reminded His followers, “No one can serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24). The drift may begin imperceptibly, but its outcome is spiritual stagnation.

Churches and ministries can also fall into this trap—chasing cultural trends such as entertainment over worship, personality cults, or political relevance while neglecting the central task of making and maturing disciples.

Politics, too, offers fertile ground for distraction. Many believers seek to promote justice and truth in the public square—a noble goal rooted in Scripture’s call to “seek the welfare of the city” (Jeremiah 29:7). Yet political involvement can become an entanglement when it replaces gospel witness with partisanship, or when indignation overshadows compassion and humility, virtues that should mark followers of Christ. Resisting evil and doing good can be undermined by senseless ranting, name-calling, anger and even hatred of opponents.

Paul warned Timothy that in the last days, “people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power” (2 Timothy 3:2–5). These words describe not only spiritual decay but also the moral climate of much of today’s political, cultural, and social life. When believers engage with these realities, the challenge is to resist adopting their tone or tactics. Instead of becoming just another voice of outrage, Christians are called to be ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:20), speaking truth with grace and patience. Political influence has its place, but it must never eclipse the greater mission of introducing others to the transforming love of Christ.

The call to avoid foolish entanglements extends into the most personal realm—marriage. When couples allow worldly expectations, social pressures, or superficial comparisons to shape their relationship, the original mission of mutual love and godly companionship begins to erode.

Consider the couple who spend more time curating an image of happiness than nurturing an authentic relationship grounded in the love of Christ. A marriage centered on encouraging each other to grow in holiness and purpose becomes a union that resists distractions and reflects Christ’s selfless love.

In every sphere of life—business, politics, or family—the believer must guard against whatever subtly pulls them off mission. Yet our calling remains unchanged: to be and to make disciples, living in obedience and faithfulness to our Lord.

Resisting evil, pursuing good, and standing for truth are all noble efforts—but they must flow from the foundational mission of following the discipleship of Jesus. When our activism, achievement, or ambition becomes detached from that mission, it turns into another entanglement.

On a mountainside, Jesus reminded His followers that they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. May we, in our generation, remain salty, shine His light of truth brightly, and stay on mission—going and making disciples.

Don Overcash is a business consultant, coach, speaker, and the author of *Being Salt and Light; Bringing Truth and Hope to a Lost Culture*. Contact: Don.Overcash@outlook.com