

# How Entrepreneurs Reflect Back the Image of God

## *Real Correlations Between Entrepreneurs and God*

*"And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that crepes upon the earth." Genesis 1:26*

We all have heard and read this scripture many times. And to be sure, every one of us has been created in God's image. Even when a person sinks to the lowest depths of sin, they still bare some resemblance and some of the markings of being created in God's *Image* and in His *Likeness*.

But perhaps arguably, more than anyone else, a person working as an entrepreneur showcases the *likeness* of God in the most clear and observable way. The chart below captures some of the core elements of what it means to personify the *likeness* of God in a human position. But first ----

### **Understanding and recognizing the differences and similarities between Entrepreneurs and Intrapreneurs and what makes them both tick**

This whitepaper applies to both Entrepreneurs and Intrapreneurs. Intrapreneurs are employees of a company who are assigned or given permission to work unimpeded on a special idea or project. They are given the time and freedom internally to develop a project as an entrepreneur would externally. In its simplest form, an intrapreneur is essentially an in-house entrepreneur—hence the obvious wordplay. While entrepreneurs are traditionally recognized for building the foundation of new companies, intrapreneurs implement revolutionary strategies

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and innovative ideas to scale a company's growth from within an existing and ongoing business enterprise. Intrapreneurs are tasked and/or allowed with using the company's resources, while entrepreneurs must use their own.

Intrapreneurs can only exist in a company that has a culture of tolerance and has an appetite for inspiring and motivating creative and individualistic thinking. It must have a cultural philosophy which allows an employee to act like an entrepreneur within an organization. Intrapreneurs, like their external cousins, are self-motivated, proactive, and action-oriented people who have leadership skills and think outside the box. If not correctly managed, or channeled, they can unintentionally wreak havoc and produce organizational chaos. But when prudently and correctly understood, allowed, and not smothered by heavy management practices, their unending contributions can be harnessed enabling them to give birth to accelerated growth in new and uncharted areas.

An intrapreneur friendly company cannot be, nor have a Demand and Control culture populated with micro-managers. To the contrary, the company must knowingly foster an entrepreneurial environment by allowing employees to use their entrepreneurial skills to the benefit of both the company and the employee. It gives employees the freedom to experiment, as well as the potential for growth within an organization.

Such organizations foster autonomy and independence, while attempting to find the best resolution for an external marketplace or internal organizational challenge. It's important for employers to recognize these employees. By not promoting intrapreneurship or recognizing employees who demonstrate an intrapreneurial spirit can be detrimental to the growth of the company and to the breadth of the company's offering portfolio. Employers who encourage intrapreneurship stand to benefit because it leads to the success of an underperforming department or to the company as a whole. Keeping these employees will lead to innovation and growth. Companies that don't promote them are in danger of losing intrapreneurs to other companies, or they may end up working for themselves as an external entrepreneur who may become a fierce competitor someday in the not-so-distant future.

Identifying intrapreneurs can sometimes be difficult, which is one of the reasons for this whitepaper. These employees are generally self-starters who are both ambitious and goal oriented. But all too often they may be blacklisted as a rebellious employee. What looks like nonconformist behavior pattern may be an individual who is just trying to solve problems on their own or come up with ideas that lead to process improvements. In their mind, they are always hunting for better ways of doing things. An intrapreneur may also take on certain risks by

assuming multiple tasks—even some that he or she may not be comfortable with—and they are constantly looking for new challenges.

Due to built-in natural limitations of a whitepaper like this, and ease of both writing and reading, I will primarily use the word “entrepreneur” in this study but let the reader know that both intrapreneurs and entrepreneurs are being addressed. Both are displaying God-given attributes given to them by God who created them in His *Likeness* and in His *image* as seen in this chart blow.

<b>A Creator’s Responsibilities</b>	<b>God Created an earth to revolve around a sun in a Solar system as part of a Universe</b>	<b>An Entrepreneur creates a Business Engine to revolve around a Strategy</b>
<b>A self-running entity put in place where there was nothing</b>		
<b>Location and Purpose</b>	Where people can live and have meaningful lives serving God	Where people can work and provide for their families
<b>Components</b>	Land, sea, air, space, and Universe	Cross-Functional Elements
<b>Governing Culture</b>	Ten Commandments	Company Values
<b>Assigned jobs</b>	Put Mankind in Garden of Eden with Responsibilities	Putting right employees in right positions

## Designed to:

To build a community of mankind to be in relationship with each other and with God forever

To identify needs of the marketplace and provide satisfactory Solutions at a competitive price

## The first ten verses of Genesis in the Christian Entrepreneur's Bible

- 1) In the beginning there was nothing, and the Entrepreneur recognized a possibility where he realized a need and saw an opportunity.
- 2) And he separated what was, from what wasn't.
- 3) He extended forth his sight to see an emerging shape and imagined a future entity where there wasn't any, and he called it his "dream."
- 4) But the dream was formless and empty, and darkness fell over the dream and shrouded its probabilities.
- 5) And there was an expanse between the darkness of the dream and the light of reality, so the Entrepreneur created a Business Plan to illuminate and eliminate the darkness that yielded forth a Green Light whereby he called it "good," as a personal calling from God.
- 6) And God continued stretching forth the Entrepreneur's mind and heart and transformed the dreamer into a visionary. And God saw that both the Entrepreneur and his Vision were "good."
- 7) The Entrepreneur's Business Plan, founded on Market Analysis yielded solutions that brought forth more solutions after their own kind, and customers called them all "good."
- 8) And God and the Entrepreneur said, "Let's create employees in our own image after our own likeness." And the new business entity became populated with employees, vendors and contractors that grew into a full-fledged company and both God and the Entrepreneur called it "good."
- 9) And the word went out into all the open market, that a new and thriving business entity had been created into existence whereby waiting customers were being thrilled and satisfied, and the marketplace called the company "good."
- 10) And God looked down on the thriving company conducting business in His likeness and bearing forth His image, blessing its future and all those operating therein and calling them all "good."

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