

Swindler's List

Michael Cafferky describes in full detail the swindles by major corporations in recent years, implicating top level executives as well as managers. He then shows that the Bible encourages faithfulness and human flourishing to counter such evils, and concludes by suggesting that Christians in such corporations have a mission to proclaim the character of Christ.

General Motors and Volkswagen, two world-renowned automakers, have recently featured in the news for swindling the public, customers and government oversight officials. Because of their actions people die in crashes; and the environment dies a little more each day from unexpected, unwanted pollution. Listing these two global companies demonstrates the relevance and importance of the biblical perspective on business ethics.

To this list we might add other news stories about companies who have

been cheating. And to that list, if we had the information, we might be able to add the names of other companies who are swindling customers, suppliers, employees, strategic business partners or government oversight officials.

Indeed, the swindler's list might get quite long if we knew the whole truth about the marketplace. In the 2013 survey of the US workforce conducted by the Ethics Research Center, survey respondents reported that 60% of misconduct they had seen involved managers, from front-line

supervisors up to and including top-echelon leaders.¹

Nearly one fourth of the observed ethical lapses involved senior managers. Workers also reported that 26% of ethical misconduct was ongoing. 12% of workers stated that the ethical misconduct took place company-wide. One in five reported that they experienced retaliation when they reported ethical misconduct. While ethical misconduct has declined slightly in recent years, the fact that managers are involved in misconduct is troubling.

