

Mission: To provide people of faith with tools for implementing their values as consumers, investors, employees, employers, and citizens.

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Are there any "good" companies?

Regular readers of the Review know that we try to provide information on a number of companies in any given issue. Sometimes the information is perceived as positive, sometimes the information is perceived as negative. In most cases, the information is related to a small sliver of what the company does, and often relates to a single fact about the company.

Sometimes single facts are enough to make a decision about investing in or buying goods from a company. Other times, reams of data must be gathered and analyzed.

In all likelihood, there are no perfect companies in the world, which means that those looking at companies must have an understanding of what level of imperfection is acceptable. Is the goal to find the "best available" company in a certain category, or is a minimum level of performance on certain issues necessary for a company to be acceptable?

All of these issues come into play in applying your values to investing, purchasing, and working. Keeping this in mind may reduce the stress level in reviewing your decisions to date in light of new facts that emerge about companies you thought were "good" or "bad."

Express Your Values through Action

1. ***Evaluate your investments.*** Read the feature on companies operating in Burma (p. 2) and the article on terror free investing in Missouri (p. 6). Consider whether these issues speak to your values and should be built into your investment policy. Also read about the guide for university endowments (p. 5), and think about the applicability of this information to any other group that invests, including your own congregation.
2. ***Evaluate your consumption and alternatives.*** Read the article on renewables (p. 4) and on the new online game analyzing consumption (p. 7) to see if there are changes that you can make in your life without breaking the bank.