

## Cambrian Debate 1.mp3

**Charles Miller** [00:00:00] Welcome to the first of our CambrianSV debates in which we're going to be getting to grips with some of the basic strategic questions facing the Bitcoin world.

**Charles Miller** [00:00:17] We're starting today with a very basic question, is a Bitcoin business the same as any other business? Or does the technology mean that different rules and different incentives apply? To discuss this, I'm joined by Ryan X. Charles, the founder of Moneybutton, and Jimmy Odom, the founder of Bittboard. Will you please welcome them to the debate? So, Jimmy, let me come to you first. How different is the life of a Bitcoin entrepreneur compared to the life of an entrepreneur starting any other kind of business?

**Jimmy Odom** [00:00:52] I think there are a lot of similarities. But if we think about, you know, economies, they're driven off of innovation and entrepreneurship. And that has to do with information. So, sure, we make money when you should make money. But I think that this is the first time that we've had the ability in human history to truly associate the value of information. And so before there would always be guardrails or gatekeepers. Right. Or intermediaries who would assign the value of information. But Bitcoin being the open protocol that it is, gives not only the ability to assign that value, but to evenly distribute the information behind the assigning of that value. And so I think when we talk about records, I think it's fundamentally different because it never existed until this time.

**Charles Miller** [00:01:47] So, Ray, what does that mean for you as an entrepreneur?

**Ryan X. Charles** [00:01:51] So I both agree and disagree on some points because I'm sure we see things pretty well aligned. But I would go back and say when it when it comes to like, what is it that Bitcoin entrepreneurs are doing differently? I think insofar as they're acting correctly, it's actually the same rules of business and the same rules of economics that it's always been. So, for instance, the notion of a corporation goes back several hundred years. I don't know the time exactly. I think it's at least about six hundred years old, something like that. Even the people that went out and created ICOs and things like this, they incorporated. They picked a jurisdiction. They said, I'm creating a corporation here. They did that. That's still the same thing. So I think there's a a lot of stuff where even in the cases where what they claim is that it's totally different, it's not actually totally different. They're following the same rules of business and the same rules of law that other people do or it's just illegal and they have a big problem. And some of those people have actually gone to prison.

**Charles Miller** [00:02:45] Jimmy, do you believe that there's actually a moral distinction between trying to build a Bitcoin business and trying to build a traditional capitalist business?

**Jimmy Odom** [00:02:56] So I wouldn't define it as the absence or presence of morals. I do believe that you have an incentive to behave morally.

**Charles Miller** [00:03:06] In Bitcoin?

**Jimmy Odom** [00:03:09] Within the Bitcoin ecosystem. And so, you know, I'm a Christian. I tend to speak a lot in reference to my faith. And I do think that all laws that men are governed by has to do with a higher power. And so the further you get away from the

higher power and those rule sets, those perimeters, that are given to each one of us, the more turbulent mankind becomes. And so I think that Bitcoin is this really fascinating discovery - because I don't think it was invented, I think we discovered it - and so I think that due to this discovery, what we find is that its fundamental perimeters seem to correlate really fascinatingly to those same behaviours and perimeters that are from, or a sign from, the higher power. And so, you know, again, I don't think morality is the way I define it, but I do think it in terms of these base level truths. And Bitcoin provides really fascinating visibility into the behaviour and habits of those same participants.

**Charles Miller** [00:04:16] Ryan, do you think with Moneybutton are you sort of in some sense occupying the high ground morally?

**Ryan X. Charles** [00:04:22] Well, OK. That's hard to answer because I mean, of course, I'm tempted to say yes right away. I'll say that certainly I do believe that there's sort of a right direction to go in. And I look myself as basically sort of having a wavering moral compass here, where the goal is to kind of narrow into what is the right direction and go in that direction. Certainly that's the intent. And I'll say that involved in things like business and the cryptocurrency industry in particular, I'll say that certainly in my personal experience, I think that successful businesses actually, by and large do follow something approximating the right moral direction. When people don't do that, they create problems for themselves and for others. I think it's like if they don't immediately see the problems by not acting morally, you see that happen eventually. I think it's just a matter of time.

**Charles Miller** [00:05:07] But when you look at the tech giants like Facebook or Google, they start with these principles of sharing things in the world and providing access to information. But somehow or other, it seems to have slightly gone off the rails, which is perhaps built into the whole system that they're working. Now is it possible that Bitcoin businesses will avoid those kind of dilemmas when they grow big?

**Jimmy Odom** [00:05:32] So I'd argue that neither Google nor Facebook were ever propositioning themselves as moral standard bearers.

**Charles Miller** [00:05:41] Well, 'don't be evil'?

**Jimmy Odom** [00:05:42] So you could say that, but you can look at their behaviour and habits. Right. So on one side, we're going to give you quote unquote, free email. Right. But on the other side, I'm going to mine your data and do so in a way that you are not immediately aware of its ramifications or repercussions. Right. And so you'd argue like, is that moral? Probably not. Right. It's better to have an informed individual to make, you know, that sovereign decision. But Bitcoin behaves so much differently because it's all transparent. We are able to immediately see does your action mirror your behaviour? Do your words, mirror your behaviour. I think that's the way I'd phrase that. And I don't think that's ever been possible. Now, if Moneybutton has a function, I can - my team can, my executives can - look at that function, determine does that app operate as displayed or as claimed? And immediately the network is able to alter its behaviour as an entire ecosystem away from service providers. So, Moneybutton, Bittboard, we're all economically incentivized to tow that line of actually following through the things that we said.

**Ryan X. Charles** [00:06:59] Yeah, sure, I'll say that when it comes to companies like Google and Facebook, I think that they - like Google in particular because they don't be evil line that they have - what they're really doing is they latch on to some largely sort of, let's say, ethical or moral, however you want to look at, this sort of sentiments and sort of

directions and decisions and things like this. But they sort of like slyly cover up some of the things that they're doing that are actually hard. That doesn't quite look right. There's something wrong here. So I think they don't quite get the morality right. I think that has a lot to do with how the fact that they can continue with business models that are ultimately, I think - I hate to be extreme and all the stuff but - I think will ultimately fail. They can't just sell other people's private data and have that be the way things work forever. So anyway, that's I think.

**Jimmy Odom** [00:07:51] When I say that a Bitcoin enabled business is not like a traditional enterprise, there are different repercussions for behaving towards this network than there were with any other company. And so I think that the threat of destruction tends to loom higher over every single one of us that participate in this economy than it ever had historically.

**Ryan X. Charles** [00:08:17] So I think that's true. But I want to come back to something about the cryptocurrency industry that that seems extremely relevant to me, because although I think that Google and Facebook has done a lot of things wrong, a lot of businesses in crypto have done things way worse than Google and Facebook, at least on a smaller scale. So the reason why this question matters are things like ICOs. So what people actually did was, 'oh, business is totally different now. We can just make a new coin that's based on the protocol and people will buy the coin for the protocol'. So what they really did was extremely disingenuous - not everyone, obviously, but some of these players in the cryptocurrency industry. It actually was business as usual. They were actually doing things that were immoral and illegal. They weren't changing the laws of business. They were just wrong. So that's what's not changed. So the proper path forward is: create a real business.

**Charles Miller** [00:09:07] Do you go along with that?

**Jimmy Odom** [00:09:12] The general thesis, yes. But I think as I think more intimately about it, I think Bitcoin has the potential to solve these problems. We see that with when it comes to forks. An ideological difference emerges within the network. There's a there's a split, a social division. And at some future date it on a long enough time horizon, those differing viewpoints will probably be resolved. Now, whether I'll see them in my lifetime or my children's children lifetime, I think at some point society will come back to a point of merger. And I think that each time it's in the protocol to facilitate the division within the human being. That's not the case with Facebook. That's not the case with Google. Each one of those corporations can not survive a fork. If Sergey and Larry at the seventh year fracture, Google would not be what we experience today. But Bitcoin is the same today as it was pre fork. Now what we're finding is that the ability to survive and sustain itself is being tested. That's all the benefit of shrinking the network. These are essentially white blood cells. When you get sick, you heal yourself. You're stronger as the virus is taking place. And I think that's what's built into the fundamental nature that is Bitcoin. This discovery, again, has never existed. We couldn't, whether it be a country, whether it be an ideology, use those fractures probably have the print to never emerge.

**Ryan X. Charles** [00:10:57] As I say, the part that I agree about, as I think Bitcoin does actually encourage something good. So I think it actually does encourage a better morality because companies basically have to be more transparent and accountable than they used to be. So it encourages the right thing. And in doing that, again, if they if they like it, the law of a particular country is like like well aligned with morality, then that means it's

also legal too. In peer to peer transactions, you have to trust each other well enough to actually make that transaction happen.

[00:11:29] I think we'd better call a halt to it there, but thank you both very much. Would you please thank Jimmy and Ryan. And thank you very much for watching this first edition of Cumbrian SV Debates.