

Christ and the Work Place
Ephesians 6:5-9
Sunday a.m. 6/25/2017

✪ **The Spirit filled life is essential to the church, the family and today, we'll see how it is essential in the work environment**

Ephesians 6:5-9

- ❖ This passage is not an approval of slavery
- ❖ Slavery in Paul's day was different than what we think of today
- ✚ A slave in the first century could be set free, usually by age 30
- ✚ They could own a business, a home and even pay for their freedom
- ✚ They were often part of the social status and often could not be distinguished from a free person

William Barclay

“It has been estimated that there were some 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire and that is many as 1/3 of the populations of large cities such as Rome, Corinth and Ephesus were slaves.”

- ✚ Many members of the Ephesus church were either slaves or ex-slaves, or owned slaves
- ✚ The Roman Empire established positive reform for slaves by the time of the early Christian church
- ❖ Paul's instruction to master and slaves is an easy comparison to today's employee and employer relationship
- ✪ **Your place of employment is one of the greatest mission fields you have. Be a missionary at work.**
- ✪ **The more you reflect Christ where you work the easier it is to share Christ with those around you**
- ❖ Paul gives great advice for a Christian employee and boss

■ Four rules for a Christian employee

• Be obedient (6:5a)

- ❖ Obedience means to hear and then respond as a subordinate
- ❖ A Christian employee needs to carry out the commands of their boss
- ❖ There are repercussions for not obeying
 - ⊗ You need to respect their position and authority or face the possibility of correction or even being fired

➤ Two important principles in an employee/employer relationship

- ✓ Be a witness to your boss if they are not a Christian

1 Timothy 6:1 (NKJV)

Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.

- ✓ Do not take advantage of your boss if they are a Christian

1 Timothy 6:2 (NKJV)

And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

• Be sincere (6:5b)

- ❖ Sincerity of the heart is singleness of heart, to be fixed on pleasing
 - ⊗ A Christian employee is to obey his boss with an undivided mind, no ulterior motive, no hypocrisy
- ❖ The key is to focus on Christ
- ❖ Obey your boss as you would obey Christ

- **Be conscientious (6:6a)**

- **Do not give eye service**

- ✚ This is the person that works only when the boss is watching

- **Do not be a people pleaser**

- ✚ You become a people pleaser and not a God pleaser

- ❖ We are to work as bond servants of Christ

- ❖ A bondservant is one who has given up his will for someone else's will

- ❖ This should be part of our character, who we are

- ⊗ **Our testimony of Christ is what is at stake**

- ⊗ **We must work as a reflection of our relationship with Christ**

- ❖ This applies even if you do not care about your job

- **Let me speak to the young people for a moment**

- ⊗ **The habits you form in your first job will stay with you the rest of your life**

- **I asked five people, who either hired individuals or worked with others, this question, "What qualities did you look for in employees or co-workers?"**

- ✓ **Not an "I" person**

- ✚ This is the person that thinks everything is about them

- ✚ They blame other people when they mess up

- ✚ They are not a team player

- ✓ **A person with a moral code**

- ✚ **They will not steal**

- ✓ **A consistent person**

- ✚ **They work hard, complete the task, can be trusted with any task**

✓ **An honest person**

✚ They will tell the truth

✓ **A punctual person**

✚ They will show up on time for work

• **Be enthusiastic (6:6b-7)**

❖ We need to see our job as fulfilling the **will of God**

✚ Work as if you are serving Christ, not your boss

✚ Work with an attitude of kindness and pleasantness

✚ Not grudgingly or formally, but with hearty readiness.

✚ **God will reward us for being a good employee**

■ **Two rules for a Christian employer (9)**

• **Set the example for your employees**

❖ Treat your employees how you want to be treated

✚ Do you want respect, then you must be respectful

✚ Do you want sincerity, then you must be sincere

✚ Do you want conscientiousness, then you must be conscientious

✚ Do you want enthusiasm, then you must be enthusiastic

• **Do not mistreat your employees**

Colossians 4:1 (NKJV)

Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

❖ Treat them how you want to be treated

Luke 6:31 (NKJV)

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

❖ Your master is in heaven and will not show favoritism to you

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