

Who Do I Work For? Ephesians 6:5-9 (9/5/10 AM)

1. Work Is Not Part of the Curse

God, Himself, Is the Original Worker

Creation is the work of God, Genesis 2:2. God created man to be coworkers with Him, Genesis 2:15.

- **God created work before the Fall**

The Fall of Adam and Eve occurs in Chapter 3.

Work Was Not the Penalty, but Work Is Affected by the Penalty

2. I Serve Christ through My Work (5)

Jesus Christ Is My True Employer

- **My work attitude is a submission issue**

I am commanded to always give willing obedience to those who are over me. If my superior is a believer I am still required to obey, 1 Timothy 6:2.

My Attitude at Work Is a Reflection of My Relationship with Jesus

- **My work ethic is a heart issue**

This section continues Paul's descriptions of the practical effects of the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Daniel, who worked in Babylon, early on "purposed in his heart", Daniel 1:8. As a Christian there is a definite connection between the filling of the Holy Spirit and my work ethic.

Work for Christ becomes the Work of Christ

2. I Accomplish God's Will as I Work (6)

Work Is Christian Service

A spiritual filled believer is a diligent worker, I must understand that my work is service to Christ, "as bondservants of Christ".

- **God meets my needs through my work**

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 - The ability and the opportunity to work come from God, Deuteronomy 8:18.

- **God meets my family's needs through my work**

1 Timothy 5:8

- **God meets ministry needs through my work**

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

- **God meets the needs of others through my work**

Ephesians 4:28,

How do I view my occupation? Do I see it as primarily a means of service to God and others?

Work Is Spiritual Stewardship

3. I Bring Glory to God in the Way I Work (7)

My Work Habits Should Faithfully Represent My Savior

The word "doing service" means "to be a slave". If God commanded 1st Century slaves to serve with the right heart attitude, how can we do less?

- **Every workday is a day of service to my Savior**

Colossians 3:22-23, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." The word "heartily" means "from the soul". We use the phrase half-hearted. The idea is total commitment to the task. Joseph modeled this principle in his life, Genesis 39:3-4; 21-22 & 41:44.

I must learn to see my reversals and promotions at work as coming from the hand of God. Daniel encountered jealousy at work. That's how he ended up in the lions' den.

God Uses My Work to Do His Work in Me

4. I Can Gain Eternal Reward through My Work (8)

The Temporal Impacts the Eternal

We often have the wrong notion that we will only be rewarded for “Christian” service. Paul was telling these slaves that they could be rewarded for their slave service.

- **Christ rewards all faithful service**

Colossians 3:24, “knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” The reward is not eternal life that is a gift to be received by faith.

If I Honor Christ through My Work, Christ Will

Honor Me

Verse 9 is Paul’s word to Christian employers and managers as well, “And you, masters, do the same things to them...”

5. I Can Be a Witness to Christ at My Work

My Work Is My Lampstand

Daniel and Joseph were witnesses to their generations.

- **Work brings believers and unbelievers together**

Titus 2:9-10, “...that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.”

The word “adorn” (*kosmeo*) is where we get our word, cosmetic. It means to arrange something in proper order to enhance its beauty. The way I work and my attitude at work will either draw or repel people to Christ.

1 Timothy 6:1, “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.”

One author says that we need to learn to “glow without glaring”. When witnessing, always leave the door open to come back again. I need to learn to witness with wisdom. I can also have a ministry to my Christian coworkers.

Diligent Work Is My Platform to Proclaim the Word