

Working in the Name of Jesus ***Cultivating Excellence in the Workplace*** ***Our Public Witness***



“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

*“El que trabaja, ora dos veces...”
“The one who works, prays twice...”
(Spanish Proverb)*

Are you giving a positive testimony on your “secular” workplace?

- Based on your performance and work ethic, can your supervisor and co-workers tell that you are a Christian?
- Can your clients sense that you are a believer in your demeanor and ethic?
- Do you genuinely love your boss? Your co-workers? Your clients?
- Do you seek the anointing of the Holy Spirit in your workplace?
- Do you work with enthusiasm and creativity?
- Do you take initiative?
- Are you diligent, responsible and dependable?
- Are you punctual?
- How much of your workday is spent on non-work related internet activity?
- Do you feel a healthy pride in what you do?
- Do you complete projects with excellence, going in the extra mile?

Our Goal: Apply Biblical principles of radical discipleship to our professional roles.

- 1. Understand that all work is “spiritual”***
- 2. Consider what it means to work “in the name of Jesus?”***
- 3. To view ourselves as missionaries in the workplace***
- 4. To consider the qualities of a Christian worker***

1. All work is “Holy” – WWJD at your workplace?

Jesus worked! What kind of Carpenter do you think he was?

- *How did he treat his clients?*
- *What quality product did he deliver to his customers?*
- *How much did he charge?*
- *How do you think he responded to disgruntled customers?*
- *How long was a typical work-day? ... a typical work-week?*

- *If he had a supervisor, how did he interact with him?*
- *If he had employees, how did he treat them?*
- *How did he speak and behave when feeling tired, or under pressure?*

“Business is business!” - the time-worn excuse for hypocrisy

Most of us compartmentalize our lives. We make a distinction between our “spiritual” life and our “professional” roles. Whether explicitly or implicitly, we often feel the need to leave our Christian values at church so we can “get ahead” in the office or shop or place of business.

A truly radical disciple erases this distinction between that which is “spiritual” and that which is “professional.” He or she does everything – *everything* – in the name of Jesus.

2. We are called to work “in the name of Jesus”

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

What does it mean to do something “in the name of Jesus?”

1. In his authority – by his power. Jesus has given us his credit card! All his spiritual riches and power stands at our disposal. He has given us full access through the authorization of his name.

2. For his glory in the world – We are ambassadors of Christ! We represent the king and His kingdom in our daily setting. All that we do, or neglect to do, reflects upon the reputation of the one we represent as we act “in his name.”

3. To please him - We live to make him smile! Do it for Jesus!



Work is Worship!



What does it mean to paint a wall in the name of Jesus?

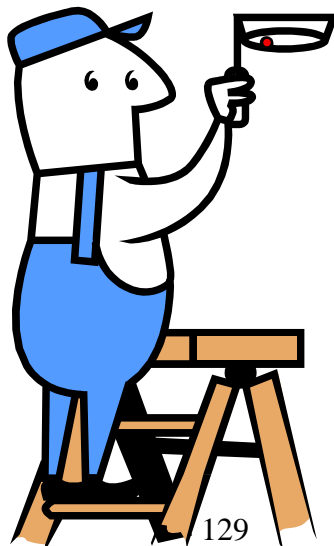
If I decide to paint a wall “*in the name of Jesus,*” how would I do it? *Let’s imagine...*

What does it mean to paint a wall *with the power of Jesus?*

What does it mean to paint a wall *for his glory in the world?*

What does it mean to paint a wall *to make Jesus happy?*

Can people tell that a Christian painted the wall?



3. *We are missionaries in our work-place!*

Every workplace is a mission field! Let's imagine that you work as a member of a hospital staff (medical professional, housekeeping, maintenance, translation...etc.) Brainstorm some ways to evangelize as a worker in this setting.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The Christian worker gives testimony through the quality of work

The Christian worker should be different! Thing about...

- How would a Christian *plumber* be different from others?
- How would a Christian *secretary* be different from others?
- How would a Christian *lawyer* be different from others?
- How would a Christian *teacher* be different from others?
- How would a Christian *student* be different from others?

If you were an unbeliever...

- Could you receive the preaching of a hairstylist who leaves you looking like a monstrosity?
- Could you accept an invitation to church from a mechanic who does a hack job?
- Could you accept the testimony of an employee who never shows initiative?

Giving testimony to "the boss"

*²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism. **Colossians 3:22-25***

Based on this text, what are some qualities of a Christian worker?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

According to this text, what is the reward of a Christian attitude at work?

4. Qualities of the Christian worker

1. *Works with spiritual anointing*
2. *Works with integrity*
3. *Work with love*
4. *Work with diligence*
5. *Shows initiative*
6. *Reliable*
7. *Works with excellence*
8. *Perseveres*



.... All for the glory of God!

1. Works with Spiritual Anointing – Powered by the Holy Spirit

Ohaliab and Bezalel were anointed for craftsmanship

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, ² “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, ³ and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— ⁴ to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, ⁵ to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. (Exodus 31:1-5)

Imagine you have a friend who feels very far from God while at work. You know that there are certain practices that can help him “walk in the Spirit” while going about his workday. What are they? Mention three ways that your friend can cultivate communion with the Spirit while working.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2. Works with Integrity – No “double life”

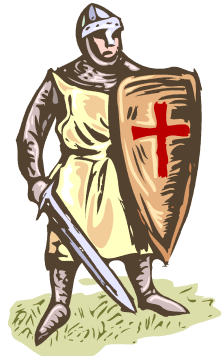
So many excuses to compromise our integrity

- “Business is business, after all”
- “Everyone does it this way”
- “It’s always been done this way”
- “I need the money”

In your workplace, what is a way that employees sometimes lack integrity? What excuses have you heard for such behavior?

Some occupations are generally associated with lack of integrity

- *Some used car salesmen* mislead potential customers
- *Some politicians* enrich themselves through bribery and corruption
- *Some accountants* embezzle money from businesses in subtle ways



One might ask, “Is it possible to be a Christian and do these jobs?”

It was no different in Jesus’ day. Some professions were known for their lack of ethics, *especially soldiers and tax collectors*. These professions relied upon extortion to pad their salaries. Put simply, they used their position *to steal* from others.

Biblical Advice to Soldiers and Tax Collectors – Luke 3:12-14

¹² *Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”*

¹³ *“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.*

¹⁴ *Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”*

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

According to these words of John the Baptist, how was it possible to be a Christian tax collector or soldier?

3. Work with love – “*I’ll do it as if it were for my own mother!*”

Love should be the defining characteristic of a Christian – not only at home and in church – but *at work* as well!

Love my boss?!? - At your job, how can concretely *love your boss!*

Love your co-workers – How can you concretely show love to your co-workers?

Love your clients – In your job, how can you practically show love for your clients?

4. Diligence

³ *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord,*
Col.3:23

Proverbs: Prosperity and Sweat go together!

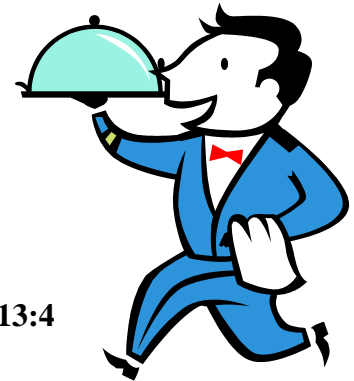
¹¹ *Dishonest money dwindles away,
but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.* **Prov. 13:11**

⁴ *Lazy hands make for poverty,
but diligent hands bring wealth.* **Prov. 10:4**

²⁴ *Diligent hands will rule,
but laziness ends in forced labor.* **Prov. 12:24**

⁴ *A sluggard's appetite is never filled,
but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.* **Prov. 13:4**

⁵ *The plans of the diligent lead to profit
as surely as haste leads to poverty.* **Prov. 21:5**



God wants prosperous children – but won't abide lazy ones!

Illustration of a student “of prayer”



Imagine the following scene. A Christian student neglects to study for an entire semester and then finds himself under pressure at the last minute, with a ten page paper due the following day. He prays...

“Lord, I have faith in you. I believe that it's your desire to prosper me. So I ask you to write this essay for me. That way I can spend more time with you this summer, serving your kingdom rather than wasting time with schoolwork...” He lays hands on his computer and prays in tongues...

Suddenly something amazing happens. Without touching a single key on his laptop, the printer on his desk begins to hum and beep, obviously processing some sort of transmission. Stunned, the student sees a sheet of paper begin to feed through the printer! In joyful awe, he grabs the sheet and begins to read the following words from God...

“My beloved child. I have heard your prayer. We will indeed spend much of time together – in summer school!”

If you want easy, instant results – go to McDonald’s – not the Lord!

God wants prosperous children, but won’t abide lazy ones!

4. Take Initiative – Follow the “internal captain”

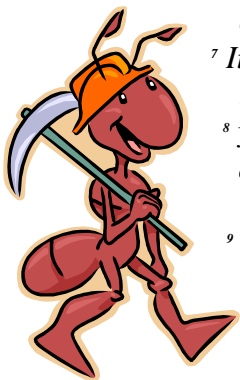
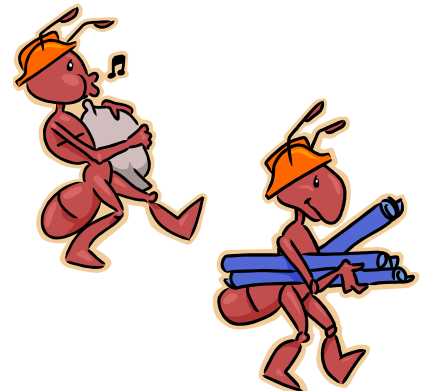
Do you take initiative – or do you tend to be passive?

- Do you wait to be told what to do before taking action?
- How do you use your free time? Do you “kill time?”
- Do you do tasks efficiently, or “milk” them at times?
- Do you often do the minimum necessary to “get by,” or do you think of new ways to prosper the mission of your employer?

Taking initiative is...

- Being self-motivated
- Being pro-active rather than passive
- Not waiting to be asked before doing what needs to be done
- Having a “spark”
- Being entrepreneurial

Proverbs 6:6-11 – The Ant – The ultimate self-starter!



⁶ *Go to the ant, you sluggard;
consider its ways and be wise!*

⁷ *It has no commander,
no overseer or ruler,*

⁸ *yet it stores its provisions in summer
and gathers its food at harvest.*

⁹ *How long will you lie there, you sluggard?
When will you get up from your sleep?*

¹⁰ *A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest—*

¹¹ *and poverty will come on you like a thief
and scarcity like an armed man.*

How is the ant an example for us?

Describe a waiter who manifests initiative. (three specific examples)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



In your job, what are some ways to take initiative?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

5. Responsible and Reliable – *Follows through!*

Are you responsible?

- Do you sometimes make excuses for not completing a task
- Do you sometimes hear the question: “*Where were you...?*”
- Do you often blame others or your circumstances for your own lack of success?
- Do you arrive on time? If you are supposed to arrive at eight....?
- Do others sometimes not take you seriously when you say you’ll do something?

Being responsible is...

- Being reliable – You can be counted upon!
- Being consistent
- Being conscientious
- Coming through on promises and commitments
- Executing rather than simply “talking”
- Arriving on time
- Not making excuses nor blaming others
- Seeking replacements when not able to fulfill a particular responsibility
- Relieving your boss of burdens



Anointing without reliability spills to the ground!

²⁶ *As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,
so are sluggards to those who send them. Prov. 10:26*

⁶ *Sending a message by the hands of a fool
is like cutting off one's feet or drinking poison. Prov. 26:6*

Describe the habits of a responsible student. (3 examples)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How can you be more responsible in your job?

6. Excellence – For the Glory of God

Do you work with excellence?

- Are you proud of what you do?
- Which is more important for you; doing something well or earning money?
- Do you sometimes say, “good enough,” in spite of preventable imperfections?
- Do you work with enthusiasm, or simply do enough to “get by?”
- Do you seek advice from others about how to improve in what you do?
- Do you do “continuing education” to improve in your job? (books, seminars, etc.)
- Do you sometimes seek the “path of least resistance,” regardless of the way quality suffers.

To God be the Glory = SDG (Soli Deus Gloria)



⁹ *Do you see someone skilled in their work?
They will serve before kings;
they will not serve before officials of low rank. Prov. 22:29*

The composer, Johann Sebastian Bach always signed his manuscripts with three letters “SDG” – “Soli Deus Gloria.” Can you do the same?

Excellence

- Does above and beyond that which is necessary or expected
- Is detailed and complete
- Never willingly leaves something “half baked”
- Is creative
- Shows enthusiasm
- Seeks to improve always – never satisfied
- Sweats!
- Plans, rather than relies on improvisation



Describe the qualities of a “creative” or “excellent” teacher you once had (3 examples)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

If you job involves cleaning houses, how can he be “detail oriented?” (3 examples)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Describe a hair stylist who works with enthusiasm and creativity

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How can a child-care provider seek to become more excellent in his job?



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Is it sinful to be “proud” of our work? What’s the difference between healthy and sinful “pride” in this context?

What is the difference between *perfectionism and excellence*?

7. Persevering – *Never give up!*

Do you persevere?

- Do you wait to “be in the mood” to work?
- Do you sometimes give up half way through a project?
- Do you get frustrated easily when a project encounters setbacks?
- Do you get distracted easily?
- Do you give up when things don’t work out the way you wanted?

The Persevering Christian...

- Starts strong; works hard; and *finishes strong*
- Gives 150%
- Sweats
- Concentrates
- Is not led by feelings
- Keeps on, in spite of tiredness or frustrations



Perseverance “walks the walk” as well as “talks the talk”

²³ *All hard work brings a profit,
but mere talk leads only to poverty. Prov. 14:23*

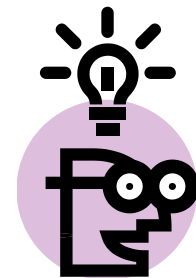
Thomas Edison (inventor of the electric light bulb), said...

Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-6 – Examples of Persevering Work

Paul, as a great mentor, teaches Timothy what it means to have a good work-ethic. Which are the models that Paul presents for Timothy to emulate?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Perseverance overcomes Distractions and Frustrations

What are some distractions that can interrupt or affect your work?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Mention a frustration you face in your work.

What do you do when you encounter this frustration?

Conclusion:

Note four specific ways you can improve your way of working “in the name of the Lord.”

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____