

## Christians in the Workplace Ephesians 6:5-9

INTRO: A key phrase concerning the Christian in the workplace is found in verses 5 and 7: “as unto Christ.” Whatever we do we are to do it, “as unto Christ.” Keep in mind the admonition of I Corinthians 10:31: “Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” Does this hold true in the workplace? Yes, it does.

Here are a couple of good questions for the Christian employee and the Christian employer. Christian employee: “How would you work if Jesus Christ the Lord were your boss?” Christian employer: “How would you boss if Jesus Christ the Lord were employed by you?”

The instructions given in Ephesians 6:5-9 has been referred to as the Gospel of the Christian workplace. Here we have instruction for those under authority and for those in authority in the workplace.

- I. VSS 5-8, BIBLICAL CONDUCT FOR THE CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEE
  - A. Before we delve into the verses before us, we need to set a few things straight.
    1. The Bible does not forbid slavery explicitly. The Word of God is not a political philosophy book. Max Anders says that the Bible, “is a book that causes men to look to God. And while Christianity may eventually bring about political reform in the kingdoms of this world, it is not first and foremost a tool for political reform. It is first and foremost, a message of salvation to save people out of this world, for Jesus’ kingdom is not of this world” (210). General Robert E. Lee said: “The mild and melting influence of Christianity,” not war would solve the slavery question.
    2. No where do you find the Bible teaching the slave to rebel against his master. There are no calls for a bloody insurrection and the killing of the master and the taking over of the property in this way.
  - B. Vs 5, Wherever you are and whatever you do, you are to be Christian. That is what Paul is saying. God puts us in certain places in life and whatever place that is we are to serve the Lord and be Christian. Many employees forget this and make a big mess at work.
    1. “Be obedient”— Do what the boss says for you to do, and be respectful in doing it.

2. “Singleness of heart”– Devote full attention and energy to the job at hand. Put in a day’s work for a day’s pay. When you work hard and put in a good day’s work, you are serving Christ while you are serving your employer. It is not your job to straighten your boss out. You can in Christian concern point out areas that need to be looked into, but you have no right to demand.
    - a. We honor God by hard work.
    - b. We honor God by honesty.
- C. Vs 6, “Not with eyeservice”– This means working only when the boss is looking. William Barclay says of Paul: “He tells the slaves that work must not be done well only when the overseer’s eye is on them; it must be done with the awareness that God’s eye is on them” (181).
1. What work we do ought to be done well enough to show to God.
  2. There are many dangers in our modern world that Christians face.
    - a. Among the dangers faced by Christian workers is sexual attraction in the workplace. You must diligently protect your Christian testimony and not get too chummy with workers of the opposite sex.
    - b. Another danger is using company time to use your Bible software and study the Bible when you ought to be working.
    - c. Take your responsibilities seriously.
  3. Don’t spend your day running from work.
  4. Do not steal from your employer. Don’t build a Johnny Cash Cadillac.
- D. Vs 7, “With good will”– It is your responsibility to make your boss and the company successful. When you do this, you are really serving the Lord, not just men. Some work places are really tough, but it is your Christian duty to work hard.
1. Too many people see their job as nothing but drudgery.
    - a. Be as cheerful as possible at work.
    - b. Do assigned tasks without grumbling and complaining because your testimony is at stake.
    - c. Remember that you are to do all as unto the Lord.
    - d. Don’t backstab, tell dirty jokes, or spend the day in gossip. It have heard many interesting things about

many a worker as I listened to workers at lunch cut down everybody in their office.

- e. When you work with mean and unpleasant folks, we must look to Jesus not at them (Col 3:22-25).
- 2. Christian, you are to be a help, not a hindrance to those in the workplace. Matthew 5:16 reminds us to: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see y our good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."
- E. Vs 8, You may never receive your due for good service here on earth, but God does not overlook your faithful service. Would it not be wonderful to hear our Savior say: "Well done though good and faithful servant."
  - 1. Our reward is in heaven. Our treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue.
  - 2. A word that we do not hear much about today is EXCELLENCE. We are to strive for excellence for the sake of Christ.

## II. VS 9, BIBLICAL CONDUCT FOR THE CHRISTIAN EMPLOYER.

- A. The person in authority is not to dwell on power. Too many good men have been ruined by a little bit of power.
  - 1. When a person in authority is primarily concerned about people recognizing his position, respecting his power, and addressing him by title, he is out of balance. He is more concerned about his position than serving those under him.
  - 2. The Bible says that the person who thinks he's "somebody" is really "nobody" (Gal 6:3).
- B. The person in authority is to be concerned about those who work for him. They are to be more than a number, more than a piece of machinery to work until it is worn out and then thrown out. The Centurion (Lk 7:1-3), shows his desire to take care of his servant.
  - 1. A good Master is one who loves and cares for his servants.
  - 2. Although the Centurion had authority, he showed genuine concern for his servant and was humble in the sight of the Lord (Mt 8:8-9).
- C. In this verse, the master is to do the same thing as the servant. What is this? The answer is found in verse 6, "Doing the will of God from the heart."
  - 1. No matter how high you go up the ladder, you need to realize that Christ is the head of man. There is always a

- perfect man above you.
2. Don't get caught up with power and position.
  3. The master of men is to be a servant of God.

CONCLUSION: All of us are to serve the Lord. We are to do that which is right and work hard whether on the floor or in management.

Dr. Cecil A Fayard, Jr.  
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