

Your Work Matters to God

Ephesians 6:5-9

Introduction

I The Duty Of Employees

- A. To **obey** their employer - Rom 13:1-2
 - 1. Obey them with respect and fear
 - 2. Obey them with **sincerity** of heart
 - a. Just as you would obey Christ
 - 3. Obey them with unconditional **integrity**
 - a. Not only when they're **watching** - Col 3:22
 - b. But doing God's will from your heart
- B. To **serve** their employer
 - 1. Serve them **wholeheartedly**
 - a. Do everything without **grumbling** - Phil 2:14-15
 - b. Be eager to take initiative - Col 3:23-25
 - 2. Serve them as if you were serving the Lord
 - 3. Serve them for God's **reward** - Col 3:25; Rev 22:12
- C. To **evangelize** their employer
 - 1. **Pray** for them - 1 Tim 2:1-4
 - 2. Submit voluntarily to their authority - 1 Pet 2:13-15
 - 3. Love them and do them **good** - Luke 6:35
 - 4. Be a shining **example** of Christ to them - Matt 5:16
 - 5. Try to please them - Titus 2:9-10
 - 6. Do not talk back to them - Titus 2:9-10
 - 7. Do not **steal** from them - Titus 2:9-10
 - 8. Show that you can be fully trusted - Titus 2:9-10
- D. Hey, wait a minute!
 - 1. What if my boss doesn't deserve respect? - 1 Pet 2:17
 - 2. What if my boss is unreasonable? - 1 Pet 2:18-25
 - 3. What if my boss never rewards me? - Lk 17:7-10
 - 4. What if my boss is an unbeliever? - 1 Pet 2:12
 - 5. What if my boss is a Christian? - 1 Tim 6:1-2

II The Duty Of Employers

- A. To treat their employees **equitably** - Matt 7:12
 - 1. Treat them with respect

- 2. Treat them with fear of God - Col 4:1; Lev 19:13
- 3. Treat them with sincerity of heart - Matt 20:25-28
- 4. Treat them with unconditional integrity
- B. To **esteem** their employees
 - 1. Manage them wholeheartedly with Christ-likeness
 - 2. Manage them as fellow **heirs** of Christ
 - 3. Manage them knowing that you will be rewarded
- C. To not **threaten** their employees
 - 1. Knowing that God is the ultimate **authority**
 - 2. Knowing that God is not **partial** - Matt 25:40, 45

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Many Christians believe that, "Church is one thing and business is another". How would you respond?
- 2. What are some ways in which employees disrespect their employer? What impact does it have on you? Others? Work?
- 2. How would you describe yourself as an employee on a scale of 1-10? Factors to consider include: Honesty, promptness, hard work, loyalty, initiative, supportiveness, pleasantness, etc.
- 3. If you are an employer, rate yourself as well. Factors to consider include: Fairness, addressing employee concerns, honesty, integrity, pleasantness, respect in attitude and actions for your employees, etc.
- 4. Paul states that the Christian is to do his work as unto the Lord. What impact would it have on your view of work and your work performance if you really believed and lived this?
- 5. What practical changes will you make this week to respond to Paul's instruction? Ask God to help you become the best employee/employer possible – a true representative of God's body and a faithful, effective witness of Christ with those you work with.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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