

My Job & Employer

How Does My Job Relate To My Spiritual Life?

Since the Bible is the final authority in life, it covers every subject, including things that do not appear on the surface to be connected with your church life. You will spend about one fourth of your adult life on the job, so it is essential to your growth in Jesus Christ to learn how he would have you handle this area of life. A disciple of Jesus Christ has his entire life transformed. If you intend to be an effective servant of Jesus Christ, you must do so with all of your life, not just the times you are at church. This lesson is designed to help you be the type of employee (or employer) that God would have you to be in accordance with his word.

- I Your job is part of your calling to “full time Christian service”.
 - A Your TRUE “vocation” is to serve Jesus Christ with all of your life.
Ephesians 4:1
 - B You are an integral part of the body of Christ, and your contribution is important. God expects you to be involved in the Lord’s work at all times.
Ephesians 4:11-16, I Corinthians 12:12-27
 - C Your service for God is at all times, not just when you go to church.
I Peter 3:15, II Timothy 4:2
- II You are to be a witness of Jesus Christ to the people God places in your life.
 - A Lost people do not naturally seek after God. It is quite likely that many of the people you work with do not know Jesus Christ as their Saviour. As a servant of Jesus Christ, he wants to use your life as a daily consistent testimony of his grace and love for them.
Luke 19:10, Romans 3:10-11
 - B Your life may be the only true witness of Jesus Christ that a man might ever see.
II Corinthians 3:2
 - C Being a witness at work is not exclusively verbal. God wants to work through your life to show others the grace of Jesus Christ, and your life must back up your words.
II Corinthians 4:3-11, Philippians 2:13-16

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
2 Timothy 4:2

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON:

You should view your job as a ministry first, and as a job second.

God gives you a job for many reasons. One of the most important is to be in contact with people who need Jesus Christ. The reason many Christians dislike their job is because they fail to see it as an opportunity to reach others for Christ. Your fellow workers are one of the greatest exposures you have to lost people. God places you in the midst of lost people as a light in a dark world to represent Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:14-16

But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

1 Timothy 5:8

- III The reward of your job is your pay, which has an important role in your service for Christ.
 - A Your first ministry is to your family. Earning an honest living and providing for those under your care is as much ministry as preaching or teaching.
I Timothy 5:8, 3:5
 - B Your second ministry is to your church family. An honest living allows you to tithe to support your church, and to have resources to minister to your spiritual family also.
Galatians 6:10
 - C Your third ministry is to reach the lost for Jesus Christ. God provides you with material blessings through your job so you can have the resources to provide spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ to others.
II Corinthians 5:20, Ephesians 6:19-20

- IV Certain Bible principles are necessary to be a proper witness of Jesus Christ on the job.
 - A Work as if Jesus Christ is your employer. Regardless of your employer's treatment of you, you are responsible to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to those around you.
Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-24
 - B Develop a healthy respect for the company and the position of its leaders.
Titus 2:9-10

- 1 “Not answering again...” Respect the authority of their position. Obviously no employer is without error, and you certainly can voice a disagreement. But do so in courtesy and respect, and submit to their decisions as an opportunity to show a witness of Jesus Christ and gain a hearing for him.
I Peter 2:18
- 2 “Not purloining...” This is another word for “employee theft”. Respect your company’s property; it does not belong to you.
Exodus 20:15, Leviticus 19:11
- 3 “Shewing all good fidelity...” Respect the company’s time; do eight hours of work for eight hours of pay. You are a witness of Jesus Christ on your job, but you cannot rob the company’s time to “preach”. Earn the trust of your employer so that he will be more likely to trust your testimony of Jesus Christ.
II Corinthians 8:21, Romans 12:17

C Contribute to the success of your employer without envy. The company does not exist to provide you a job; it must profit from your employment or there is no reason for you to be employed. Allow the Lord to bless your employer materially through you, so that God can also bless the people who work there spiritually through you. One of the greatest examples in the Bible is the life of Joseph in Genesis chapters 39-50.
Romans 12:11, Proverbs 10:4, 18:9, 21:25, 22:29, Genesis 30:27

D Mind your own business, and do not get drawn into the errors of others. You are there to show others a good witness of Jesus Christ by your word AND your life.
I Thessalonians 4:11, II Thessalonians 3:10-13

V Employers and supervisors are governed by Bible principles also.

- A Treat people justly. Show an example of how Jesus Christ treats you. Do not set standards for others that you are unwilling to keep yourself.
Colossians 4:1, Ephesians 6:9
- B Consider the needs of others also without being consumed by your own self interests. Jesus died on the cross for your sins because he considered your need above his own. When you value the needs of your employees, they are much more likely to respond with value to your company.
Philippians 2:2-3, I Corinthians 10:24, Hebrews 12:1-3

C Consider the costs of “climbing the corporate ladder”. While you seek the very best God has for you, there are also Bible principles to determine what the “best” really is, and it may not always be more money and a better position.

*Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.
Ephesians 6:8*

- 1 Be sure you are faithful with what you have now, and that you have the ability and talents for the greater position.
Luke 16:10-12
 - 2 Realize the greater the responsibility, the greater the accountability.
James 3:1, Ecclesiastes 8:9
 - 3 Realize the greater the responsibility, the greater the burden. A higher position in your work will give you more influence in the lives of people, which God can certainly use. But be careful that the greater burden does not hinder your service to Jesus Christ.
II Timothy 2:4
- D The best leaders are those who maintain the attitude of a servant and seek to help those around them succeed and prosper. Always remember that you are responsible to lead others to Jesus Christ more than to lead them in your work.
Mark 10:42-45, I Corinthians 9:19, 10:33

*A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.
Proverbs 11:1*

VI Work conflicts are also to be handled Biblically.

- A Conflicts of priorities are inevitable. You cannot abandon your work for church activities or use your job as an excuse to neglect your church and spiritual life. You must maintain a proper balance.
Proverbs 11:1
- B Conflicts of principles may often occur. When your job responsibilities are contrary to Bible truths, then you must draw a line. Refuse to lie or steal for your employer or violate other clear commandments of God. Guard against temptations and don't be influenced by sinful activities and attitudes around you.
Ephesians 5:3-12
- C Work conflicts may lead you to seek employment elsewhere. There is nothing wrong with looking for another job, and the reasons can be many and valid. Just be sure you allow God to remain in control through the principles of his word.
 - 1 Take the matter to God in prayer and seek his direction.
James 1:5, Philippians 4:6-7
 - 2 Keep ministry opportunity in mind as well as personal matters such as money, advancement, and working conditions

- 3 Do not run away from a situation that you should be facing and dealing with. God will make you face it again later, and it will probably be more difficult.
- 4 Do not allow a new responsibility to destroy what God is currently trying to do in your life. This can be a very complex issue. Seek wise counsel from a mature brother in Christ if necessary.
- 5 If you are being asked to move to another city, make it a priority to include a search for a good local church. Review the principles of Lesson 8 on how to find a good church, and seek counsel from your pastor.

Basic questions you may be asking:

How do I handle persecution on the job?

Some “persecution” Christians feel is really not persecution. It is a result of a person’s improper walk with the Lord. However, there will be some adversity for any believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who is living for him. You must learn to expect opposition for being a witness of Jesus Christ. Just be sure it is for the right reasons, and not because your testimony is improper. Learn how to commit the adversity to the Lord.

II Timothy 3:12, I Peter 2:18-23, 3:16-17

Do you have any other questions about this subject?

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

There are many popular beliefs which are contrary to the truths of the word of God. A discussion of these issues in light of the principles you just learned should give you a proper understanding of this lesson and correct some of these misconceptions:

- 1.) Why is your job status not the most important measure of your success?
- 2.) What are the ways in which your pay can be used in your service to Jesus Christ?
- 3.) What conflicts can happen between your job and spiritual life, and how can you handle them?
- 4.) Why are your spiritual life and your work life never separate?

Memory Verses:

II Timothy 2:4: “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

Mark 10:44-45: “And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Colossians 3:23: “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”