

Be Committed to your Work

August 30 & 31, 2008

Some of what the Bible says about work:

- ***Work willingly (enthusiastically!) at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.*** Colossians chapter 3 verse 23 (903)
- ***Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus....***
Colossians chapter 3 verse 17 (903)

How can I work for Jesus at my job??

Serve Others

- ***Jesus said, "...when you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me."***
Matthew chapter 25 verse 40 (756)
- ***Jesus said His reason for coming to earth was "...not to be served but to serve others...."***
Matthew chapter 20 verse 28 (751)
- ***Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.***
You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.
Philippians chapter 2 verses 4 & 5 (900)
 - ✓ make, serve coffee
 - ✓ hold the door for others
 - ✓ allow others to go first
 - ✓ listen instead of talking
 - ✓ don't insist on getting your way
 - ✓ buy lunch or be generous to help pay for lunch
 - ✓ allow others to take the credit or limelight

Accept Others Unconditionally

- ***Accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.***
Romans chapter 15 verse 7 (868)
- Learn from Jesus' example... Acceptance ≠ Approval!
- ***Because Jesus accepted all people & freely associated with all people, he was called "a friend of sinners."*** (see Luke chapter 7 verse 34, p # 788)
 - ✓ spend time with the less popular
 - ✓ spend time with those who can do nothing to help you advance
 - ✓ look past the hurt someone causes & focus on their brokenness instead.
Turn your anger into compassion

Encourage, don't Complain

- ***Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.***
Ephesians chapter 4 verse 29 (897)
- ***Encourage each other and build each other up...***
1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 11 (907)
- Encourage, encourage, encourage! ANYONE can complain, tear-down or be negative
- God is an encourager & He wants His kids to be like Him!
 - ✓ look for the good & mention it
 - ✓ verbalize sincere compliments to those around you, generously!
 - ✓ be the first to encourage others
 - ✓ allow the disappointment of failure to be your indicator that God wants you to sincerely encourage others

Forgive Generously

- ***From the Lord's Prayer - "...forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us."***
Matthew chapter 6 verse 12 (737)
- ***Be kind (useful!) to each other... forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.***
Ephesians chapter 4 verse 32 (897)
- ***Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. (WHY??) Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.***
Colossians chapter 3 verse 13 (904)
 - ✓ Forgiving is giving up my right to hurt back
 - ✓ Allow the hurt caused by others to be a catalyst to forgive. Allow God to re-program my mind that way
 - ✓ Refuse to take revenge or to hold a grudge
 - ✓ Forgive...even when you don't feel like it. Allow your emotions to catch up with you later
 - ✓ Forgive...even if the other person never asks! Forgiveness frees YOU!

Next week: Be Successful