



## What Happens To My Christianity When I Go To Work?

**Proverbs 10:4: (NASB) *Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.***



For the most part, we all need to support ourselves. That self-supporting system generally comes in three phases. First is the education phase where we are supposed to choose what self-support direction to take and then how to do it. Second is the work of making ends meet which, for most of us, occupies the majority of our adult lives. It is in our thinking and actions in this phase that defines our lives. Third is the benefits stage which is hard to get to but can give us choices and control of our time. Whatever stage of life we might be in, we as Christians are always required to carry our beliefs and principles with us. The question then is simple. How well are we defining ourselves by our thoughts, words and actions

while in these environments? Do we look and act like the follower of Christ we profess to be?

This all applies to people going to school as well, since learning is your job at this time in life.

 ***Three Unmistakable Signs You're in a Toxic Work Environment, Bob Sutton INC.***

- If you're in a work environment, and you're wondering whether it's getting to you - here's the top three questions that you should ask yourself. The first one is, is my well-being suffering? Having trouble sleeping, feeling a little bit anxious, maybe having a family relationship problem? To me that's a sign you've got a long-term bullying problem. The second one is kind of career performance effects. There's a lot of evidence that when people feel surrounded by jerks, or have a jerk who's really getting to them that their performance suffers, they have trouble concentrating, they're less creative, they don't go the extra mile - that's the second effect. The third one - and this is one of those sort of contagion problems - there's evidence that if you're around a bunch of jerks - number one, you're going to catch the disease and turn into a jerk, and number two, take it out on other people.*

1. Is my well-being suffering?
2. Is my performance suffering?
3. Am I catching the disease?



**Reflecting true  
Christianity in the workplace  
with my...  
INTERNAL ATTITUDE**



We will describe Jesus' work as his mission to bring people to the gospel and plant seeds of the kingdom. He did not have a typical job, but he had work to do.

**During his typical "work day," he showed us what our internal attitude should be:**

**Matthew 22:34-40:** (NASB) <sup>34</sup>*But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together.* <sup>35</sup>*One of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, testing him,* <sup>36</sup>*Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?*

Jesus tirelessly defended God's character and knew full well the next question was a setup. What would I do if I knew I was being set up?

**Here is what Jesus did:**

<sup>37</sup>*And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.* <sup>38</sup>*This is the great and foremost commandment.* <sup>39</sup>*The second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* <sup>40</sup>*On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.*

He kept his emotions in check. By telling them the highest truth, he stood his enemies in front of a self-reflection mirror.



Stephen asks on our website: I recently watched a YouTube video about purging occult objects from our home. It made me feel concerned that studying natural and mathematical sciences is unsafe, but this extreme view suggests that any profession outside of divinity or ministry does not glorify God.

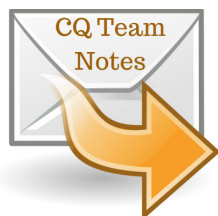
Math and science are not unsafe. The Bible is mathematical and proves science. Most of us do not work for pay in the ministry. We at Christian Questions, for example, are all volunteers. Whenever possible, we want to choose a job that works along with our Christian integrity. A casino or liquor store may not be the best place for a Christian to work. Choose a job that has something decent about it and then work really hard at it.

What if we just do not like our job? Do we believe God provided it for us? Sometimes we learn Christlikeness through struggle more than when things are going well. We have more reliance on God. Not liking our job *could* be a good thing. We have to rely on the Lord day-by-day and sometimes we do not have the perfect job.

**Do not be lazy:**

**Proverbs 10:26:** (NASB) *Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy one to those who send him.*

We have to work hard even if we are given something we do not like to do.



Becca, a teacher, starts to tell her story: My boss/principal was a bully, and unfortunately when you are in a position of power that goes unchecked, it's unbelievably hard to do anything about it. My main strategy for dealing with him was avoidance unless I needed something from him. For whatever reason, my department in the Arts was a specific target of cruelty, partially because there were many long-time teachers that felt that it was their duty to stand up to him. That in and of itself caused me a lot of stress, because I felt that I should be as vocal and stand up for what was right; however I also knew that



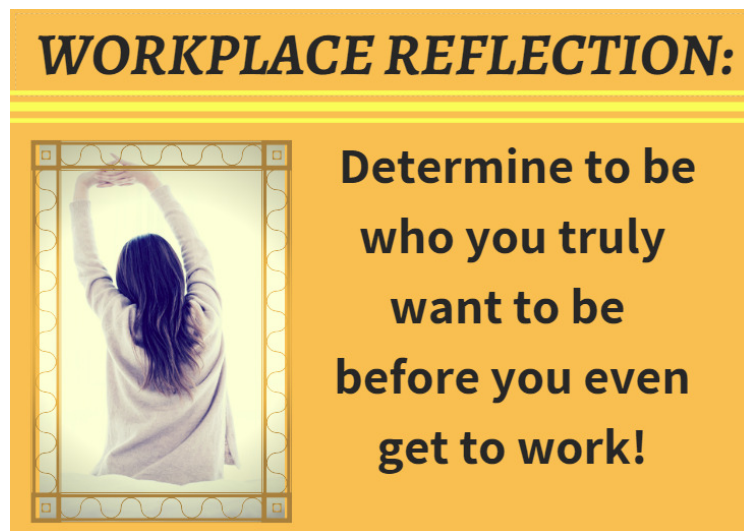
by doing that it would put me in the line of fire, and I really just wanted to close my door and do my job...

**What if our job is an unfair environment? Is God directing you to leave or are you just unhappy?**

**1 Corinthians 7:21-24:** (NASB) <sup>21</sup>Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that. <sup>22</sup>For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave. <sup>23</sup>You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. <sup>24</sup>Brethren, each one is to remain with God in that condition in which he was called.

The idea is even if we are a slave in the wordly environment, if we are called to Christ, we have a freedom other people do not have. Bask in that freedom!

Sometimes our freedom will be only in Christ, and sometimes we might be delivered from the circumstances. Let us work on being happy either way.



**With our attitudes in the right place, what is the next step in being a light for Christ in the world of our work environment?**

It has been said that our lives are often self-fulfilling prophecies, and our work experiences are no exception. The purpose for working is to be self-sufficient and that can come by squeaking by or by making a statement of excellence in our approach and our productivity!

What is YOUR statement of excellence in your workplace or school?



**Excellence, Four Attributes of a Workplace Christian, Os Hillman**

- *What really makes the difference in being a Christian in the workplace? Well, I came up with four things. The first thing is excellence. God calls us to do our work with excellence. In Daniel, chapter 2, (actually it is Daniel 1:20) it says that Daniel and his three friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did their work ten times better than anyone else. You see, if we don't do our work with excellence we don't earn the right to be able to have a voice in the marketplace. If you do shoddy work people aren't going to listen to you. Let me encourage you that whatever you do, do it unto the Lord.*



Reflecting true  
Christianity in the workplace  
with my...  
**PRODUCTIVITY**

**Jesus' Statement of Excellence:**

John 4:31-35: (NASB) <sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, Rabbi, eat. <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, I have food to eat that you do not know about. <sup>33</sup>So the disciples were saying to one another, No one brought him anything to eat, did he?

Jesus' focus was clearly higher than his followers as his mission never left his mind. If he missed a meal, he did not notice.

<sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.

In other words, "My nourishment is to do God's will. We have God's will to do everywhere."

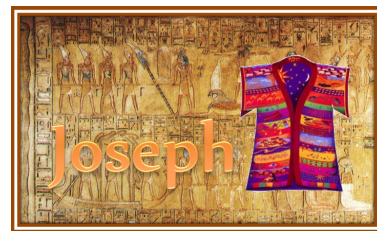


To do the will of God is supposed to be our nourishment. If I do not "live for my job" like Jesus did because my job is not in the ministry, per se, how does this "will of God" principle fit into my job and its requirements?

Our goal should be keeping a high standard. Honesty, integrity, punctuality, reliability. *Do all things as unto the Lord.* The workplace is no exception. If God is our supervisor, we should be doing our best. If we are doing His will, He is watching our actions, heart and mind. My Christianity is being shown to Him by doing my work that has nothing to do with Him directly as if it has *everything* to do with Him directly. If I am making widgets, I am working as if I am making them for God.

We should emulate Joseph:

- He worked diligently in Potiphar's house under an adverse situation.
- In prison, the jailer put him in charge of the other prisoners.
- In service to Pharaoh he worked diligently and honored God in everything he did.



Joseph showed us his Statement of Excellence. It did not matter what his circumstance was; he would rise to the highest level he could because he worked *as unto God*.

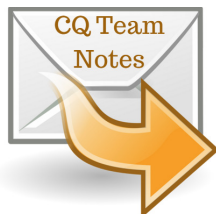




**How should Christians go about their work? With a determined work ethic:**  
**1 Timothy 5:8:** (NASB) *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

A work ethic has to be in place and engaged before you get there. We, of all people, should be the ones who step up and step out, even if it is difficult.

We are to provide for our families. There is a lot of generosity in Christianity and we want to help support one another, but it may not be the appropriate thing to do if someone is capable but chooses not to work. The Apostle Paul warns against this and says that person *is worse than an unbeliever*.



Becca continues: Things got worse and worse as my boss would push ridiculous policies that didn't make sense. He would lie, belittle and demean colleagues and students. Many times it would be in front of only one or two people and he would just deny any wrongdoing. I started to feel a little bit like I was going crazy when these terrible things are happening and there was NO recourse for the person who was behaving in this way and that would get me really riled up and angry. I'd come home from school on a daily basis with a laundry list of things that made me mad, and then I'd be reliving them all over again.

It is hard to let a bad situation go; it is an exhausting cycle. News flash! We do not HAVE to live in that cycle; we can rise above it. Striving for excellence might help us.

**How else should Christians go about their work? With a foundation of honesty:**

**Proverbs 10:2:** (NASB) *Ill-gotten gains do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death.*

You can make a lot of money in illicit ways. But it does not profit us from the standpoint of righteousness. If in our workplace environment we are involved in anything shady, underhanded or something you would not tell your minister about, ask yourself what you are doing. Everything less than above-board is everything less than Christian.

When I go to work, am I bringing my Christianity with me in such situations? Sometimes we can rationalize our way into bad behavior, making the ends justify the means. We can be in a situation like, "I need to support my family, and therefore, I am going to do 'this.'" Is it something for which we could take Jesus with us? If we could not take him with us, we ought not to do it.



**Sometimes we can rationalize our way into bad behavior making the ends justify the means. This is wrong:**

**Proverbs 15:26-29:** (NASB) <sup>26</sup>*Evil plans are an abomination to the LORD, but pleasant words are pure.* <sup>27</sup>*He who profits illicitly troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.* <sup>28</sup>*The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.* <sup>29</sup>*The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.*

***Evil plans are an abomination to the LORD - this is serious!***

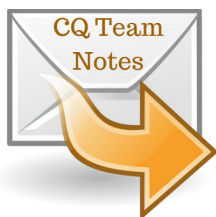


*He who profits illicitly troubles his own house - this will bring trouble to our family eventually, somehow.*

It is far easier to love righteousness than it is to hate iniquity, but that is our standard through Jesus.

**We need to hate iniquity with the same energy as we love righteousness:**

Hebrews 1:9: (NASB) *You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions.*



Theresa contributes: Part of my job is to plan our company's annual conference. Historically, we've held this event in the same city as our corporate offices; however, for our 60th anniversary, our President wanted to do something bigger and better to celebrate. She proposed Las Vegas and she ended up opening the conference with a welcome toast and ended it with how we were going to have fun to celebrate and "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas," basically condoning any behavior that may happen.



There are certain lies in life that come about. One of the great lies in all of history was Satan's lie to Adam, *You will not surely die*. This was a lie, and we see the trouble it caused. This slogan is the same kind of lie - a rationalization that is as untrue as can be. We all know that if we have committed an indiscretion, it does not just stay where we committed it. It follows us home and eats us up until we do something to repent and fix it.



I worked in a factory years ago. I am a hard worker and was diligent, and a supervisor said, "I have never seen anyone with your productivity." But the people around me said, "You are making us look bad. Stop, slow down." How do we handle peer pressure when we are trying to keep our work ethic honoring the Lord?

Rick's dad's answer in that same scenario was, "I get paid to work eight hours, and I owe that to my employer. No reflection on you; I just need to go to work." If it is appropriate to explain about God at this point, do so! We do not compromise because other people feel bad. We do not DO it to make them feel or look bad, we do it to bring honor to God and in a humble way.

**How should Christians go about their work? With a godly focus:**

Ephesians 6:5-8: (NASB) *<sup>5</sup>Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; <sup>6</sup>not by way of eye service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. <sup>7</sup>with good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, <sup>8</sup>knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.*

**Be obedient with respect and sincerity - With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men.**



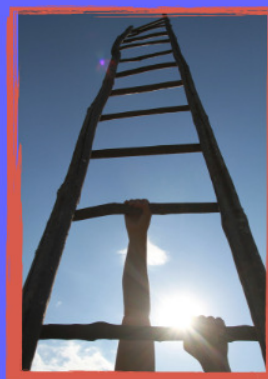
## How should Christians go about their work? With a mastery seeking approach:

Proverbs 22:29: (NASB) *Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.*

Usually those who work hard stand out. I started out on the production line of a furniture company, put my head down and worked hard. I ended up as the General Manager of the shop several years later. How did that happen? I worked hard and did what I was supposed to do.

## WORKPLACE REFLECTION:

Diligence, honesty  
and integrity are  
our requirements  
because God is  
ultimately the boss  
we must please!



**We have to work hard because we represent Christ,  
but do we always have to be happy about it?**

While it is not a requirement to be happy about our everyday work environment, we are to be contented in the fact that God has provided a way for us to support ourselves. We just established the importance of pursuing excellence, so now let us look around the edges at some of the non-production parts of work that really matter.



**Integrity, *Four Attributes of a Workplace Christian*, Os Hillman**

- The second thing is ethics and integrity. God called us to do our work with ethics and integrity. Integrity is what you do behind closed doors. Is it the same thing in public as what you do behind closed doors? Psalm 51, David writes that "God desires truth in the inward parts." That means whatever I do out there is the same behind the closed doors. You want to be a person of integrity.*



**WE HAVE TO KEEP  
GOING BACK TO "NORTH"  
WHEN OUR THINKING  
GOES AWRY!**

This is sometimes easier said than done. It is a battle between the ears! Keep battling and asking for forgiveness, continually working at being better.



**Reflecting true  
Christianity in the workplace  
with my...**  
**CHOICE OF WHAT  
I PAY ATTENTION TO**



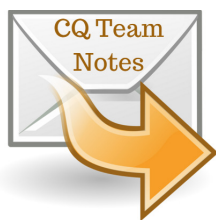
There are voices that seek to influence everywhere around us and all of them are not good. We need to select the right things to listen to.

**Here is Jesus' example of selective hearing:**

John 8:25-26: (NASB) <sup>25</sup>So they were saying to him, Who are you? Jesus said to them, What have I been saying to you from the beginning? <sup>26</sup>I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.

*The things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world - "The things I hear from God are what you hear from me."*

Jesus painted an abundantly clear picture - carefully select that which will influence you.



Becca continues: I really felt that the negativity and toxicity slowly started to affect me as a person. The other end of things is it led to LOTS of gossip, but the worst part is that it didn't feel like you were gossiping. You were sharing information with a colleague to warn them, or keep them updated on the most recent ridiculous event and so it was easy to justify in my mind and to get wrapped up in politics that I really wanted to stay out of. I could feel myself changing into what I felt wasn't such a great person. I was very negative, I complained a lot (and cried a lot) and I was overall really, really unhappy. Sunday nights before school started I would feel sick to my stomach and the morning before school started I would get such bad anxiety sometimes I'd start crying by the overwhelming stress of everything.



I can relate to that. At one time I worked in an environment where inappropriate words, jokes and subject matter were so pervasive I couldn't shut it down. I got to a point where I started thinking in those terms, and it was deeply disturbing.

Tricia adds: As we go through the Scriptures about what we *should* be like, let's face it, we aren't there yet. Life is tough and when you are in a situation like this, it is really challenging to handle. It shows our weakness and our growth in Christ. We are not always going to be where we are supposed to be and that's okay because we learn and grow.

This is a common story many of us live every day. We want to bring encouragement to be able to live in the best way possible.





**Jesus in these next verses shows that he did NOT do all of the things he was capable of:**

**Luke 12:13-15:** (NASB) <sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to him, Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me. <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, Man, who appointed me a judge or arbitrator over you? <sup>15</sup>Then he said to them, Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.

Jesus could have read the hearts of these men and given them equity, but that was not his job. He was not trying to fix the world, but rather to bring individuals out of the world to a higher level.



How do we determine what voices to follow at work, especially if our employer may be sending compromising signals?

We have to always be on guard against shortcuts, lying and compromising, but if the boss tells us to do whatever goes against our Christian conscience, we need to remind him or her we cannot do that because it would not be right.

We can and should speak up, even though it might cost us our job. God wants to test our loyalty to His righteous standards. We are to be loyal to Him before the job, during the job and after the job.

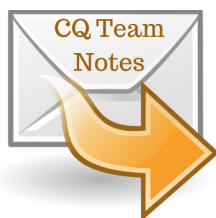
Selective hearing means listening to the things that will guide us into the right way, not the compromised or dishonest way.

**If they could work as unto God being "slaves," we certainly can do it having a choice of what to do:**

**Colossians 3:22-25:** (NASB) <sup>22</sup>Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. <sup>23</sup>Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, <sup>24</sup>knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. <sup>25</sup>For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

The Apostle talked to the Colossians, Ephesians and Corinthians about slavery - this is common - he was telling everyone we must do our job with sincerity of heart because God is our ultimate boss. The Apostle said this to all groups of Christians; He said that to all of us. This is the selective hearing we have to have.

This advice encourages full dedication with the assurance that any evil will receive its reward...maybe not in this life, but God does not allow evil to go unchallenged. The Christian slave was to listen *as unto God*.



Theresa continues: When our President proposed Las Vegas, she asked for a vote on keeping the event local or moving it to Vegas. It was quite difficult to NOT vote in favor of the location. She went around the conference room table and asked each Leadership Team member to verbally vote "yes" or "no" and explain why. I was the first and only no vote. I said that perhaps it wasn't the best choice due to all of the unique distractions the city presents and difficulties in planning.



## How should a Christian worker listen? With ears tuned to a Holy Spirit-driven spiritual conscience:

**Romans 8:13-15:** (NASB) <sup>13</sup>For if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, Abba! Father!

Gossip in the workplace can be damaging, and we need to avoid it. Please see [September 19, 2016, CQ Episode #936, "Does Gossip Really Hurt Anyone?"](#) It can lead to putting down others to try to get ahead in the workplace.

God's Spirit provides direction. Listen to those in power at work heartily.

**BUT if there is a need to reconsider actions based in Christian integrity, allow God's Spirit to show you, not your emotions:**

**Isaiah 30:20-21:** (NASB) <sup>20</sup>Although the Lord has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher. <sup>21</sup>Your ears will hear a word behind you, This is the way, walk in it, whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

## WORKPLACE REFLECTION:

**Pay attention  
to your boss  
by filtering all of his  
or her instructions  
through the filter of  
godly thinking and  
behavior!**



**Our productivity and our hearing must be Christlike as we pursue excellence. Does that cover everything?**

As usual there is always something else to add to the picture. Thus far, we have spoken about being an example through determination, action and responsiveness. What about the power of our words in the workplace?



**Service, Four Attributes of a Workplace Christian, Os Hillman**

- *The third area is service. The Bible says that if you want to be great among them, then you must be servant of all. That's what Jesus did. After all, it was the servants that saw that first miracle that Jesus did with the wine. So you and I must be servants and serving people in the marketplace, solving problems.*



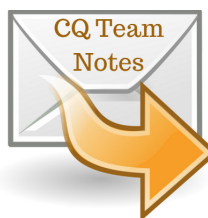
**Reflecting true  
Christianity in the workplace  
with my...  
WORDS**

Jesus spoke of the things of God and sometimes those things were difficult.

**His words ALWAYS served a purpose:**

John 6:52-53: (NASB) <sup>52</sup>Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in yourselves.

Jesus was not afraid to say those things that would be hard to hear. Some things hurt his reputation and he lost followers.



Becca continues: Leaving that job has been life-changing in a lot of ways, and I know that people who have really awful, hostile work environments and bosses who are bullies don't always have the option to quit. I am blessed enough to be married and have someone else to support me if I wasn't able to find work right away. But for some of the other friends I have that are in these really terrible work situations I encourage them to just get out. I don't want the environment and the people at my job to determine the kind of person that I am, and because I wasn't strong enough to withstand all of the terrible things around me, it was really in my best interest to just get out.



In my bad work environment years ago, it got inside my head and I could not manage it. I was the primary breadwinner in my home with small children, and when when another job opportunity dropped in my lap I ran to it, seeing God giving me a way out. It was overtaking my mind and it was too much. I was so glad for the opportunity to get away, but it does not always work out that way.

**Jesus also spoke things of God that were encouraging. His words always served a purpose:**

John 15:7-11: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup>Just as the Father has loved me, I have also loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love; just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

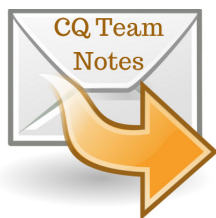
We should speak encouraging, strong words with the sense of bringing the environment up higher. Be recognized as one who has something different in our lives.

**He spoke of things of God that were even harsh when necessary. His words always served a purpose:**

Matthew 23:27: (NASB) Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.



No minced words, "You are hypocrites!" He was harsh but they needed to hear this.



Theresa ends: One of our vendors, a married man, brought paid company back to his room (that our company paid for). Two of my coworkers saw this vendor return to the hotel with two prostitutes and they voiced their concern to me upon my return home. I met with the Vice President who invited this particular vendor guest and shared what was observed. His response was along the lines of: What am I supposed to do? I'm not going to judge anyone's marriage. We just placed a huge order with his company and if I tell his boss, they'll fire him. We can't afford that. He can't lose his job because of us. The VP's response was, "Hopefully no one else saw him and it stays contained." Our President said she would not acknowledge she knew of the situation and preferred to "remain ignorant," otherwise if she knew, she'd be forced to deal with it.

The "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas" mentality is dangerous to our Christianity while we are working.

Jesus said things that were hard to hear, he said things that were encouraging and things that were harsh. But we cannot read the heart like Jesus, so how do we know when to speak difficult or encouraging things of God?



I had an experience working in a woodworking shop years ago with a lot of guys who did not care about their words at all - they were very crude. One day the most senior worker in the shop once again said harsh words against my Heavenly Father. I went up to him and told him these words hurt me, and did he realize he was putting down God? I wasn't sure how he was going to react. Guess what? He apologized! He really didn't mean it; it had become rote - words he didn't even know he was saying. After that, he was much more careful and showed respect to me and I showed respect to him.



About a year after I left my bad job, I was laid off at the new job. The day after I got laid off, my old boss called me back to work! In that year, the Lord allowed me to do a lot of growing up. I was different and had the attitude of, "Not this time!" I worked hard, I was eventually promoted to General Manager and the whole environment got better - not perfect, but better. Even the prevalent office lying started to go down because God allowed me to grow up in between. Stand up for things and things can happen!

Here is a recap of what we have discussed, all found in these next verses...

**Our workplace attitude - another slave reference, this time addressed to the masters:**

Colossians 4:1-6: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

**My productivity, my excellence, comes from an alert and thankful approach:**

<sup>2</sup>Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;





**What I pay attention to:**

*<sup>3</sup>praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;*

**What I say:**

*<sup>4</sup>that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. <sup>5</sup>Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. <sup>6</sup>Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.*

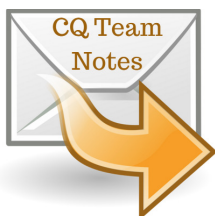
We may even have the opportunity to witness in the workplace, if anything just by the way we live. Our work experience must be honoring to God - this goes beyond bringing home a paycheck. Bringing a God-honoring attitude to work uplifts those around us, even though it is unquantifiable.

Proverbs 14:23: (NASB) *In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.*



**Attitude, excellence, attentiveness and our words.  
What else could we possibly need to focus on?**

Our final look will be into the culmination of all of those things as we now examine the character that we bring to work each day. Jesus obviously was always pure in his approach, and we must strive to take what he did and said and what he was and apply it personally to the highest degree possible. After all, our workplace can be our greatest opportunity for witnessing a Christlike character in our life.



**Becca ends:** We are called to be different and to stand out and as uncomfortable as that is, it shines a light as to the type of person we are. I know that I have failed tremendously in the past, and I feel really badly about it now. BUT it motivates me to work that much harder to be better today.

Her failure is the beginning to being better. Whatever situation we are in, the Lord will provide a way for us to rise above our circumstances.



### **Signs and wonders, *Four Attributes of a Workplace Christian*, Os Hillman**

- *Fourth, signs and wonders. Acts Chapter 5 tells us that the apostles did miraculous signs and wonders in the public colonnade where the people could see them. Jesus never invited someone into the synagogue to get healed or to get prayed for or to solve a problem. He was in the marketplace every day. He was out with the people, and so that's a great lesson for us. If you're a person who wants to be a marvel in the marketplace, you want to be a person of excellence, you want to be a person of integrity, you want to be a person that serves others, and finally, you want to be a person that does signs and wonders. Maybe God will give you an idea for a new invention or a better way of doing something in your workplace, or just praying for someone. There are a lot of ways that you can do that one.*

Are we supposed to do miracles in our workplace? No, we are in the age of example, not of performing miracles. We are to live a lifestyle that is dramatically different from those around us. What is the sign of your Christianity? What about you gives others pause to wonder about what makes you so different?



**Reflecting true  
Christianity in the workplace  
with my...  
ACTIONS**

#### **Here are some of Jesus' actions:**

Matthew 12:1-7: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>*At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and his disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat. <sup>2</sup>But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, Look, your disciples do what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath.*

#### **The Pharisees were like people at work who are always criticizing our efforts towards excellence:**

<sup>3</sup>*But he said to them, Have you not read what David did when he became hungry, he and his companions, <sup>4</sup>how he entered the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat nor for those with him, but for the priests alone? <sup>5</sup>Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are innocent? <sup>6</sup>But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here. <sup>7</sup>But if you had known what this means, I desire compassion, and not a sacrifice, you would not have condemned the innocent.*

**"David did the same thing. How come you are not complaining about David? There is something bigger here than the Law (pointing to himself)."**

***But if you had known what this means, (these next words are from God in the Old Testament) I desire compassion, and not a sacrifice, you would not have condemned the innocent - in other words, "You are missing the point of the***



thing you are complaining about." Jesus showed them they needed to rise above where they were.

The excellence Jesus taught his followers to have was based on a higher standard. In our workplace environment, always be the "you" that is following Jesus, not some other "you." Jesus himself was his disciples' teacher. We should deeply care, and not just show up.

I went to a five-month course on how to go into business for yourself. There were 16 adults there learning this process. It was an open environment and we were trying to help each other become successful. One day, one of the students came up to me and asked if we could get together to talk. He invited me to his house. He said, "I could see your faith in the class, and I am very troubled in my life. I know there is one other woman in class who talks about Christianity all the time; I already met with her. But there is something different about you. I'm contemplating suicide. Can you talk to me?" I didn't even say any words in the class to witness, but I was there. I shared the good news about the gospel, about the call to follow in Jesus' footsteps. He instantly was attracted, changed his life and started being the man he could be in following Christ. I was so thankful he asked if I could help.

***Preach the gospel. Use words if necessary. - Rick's Uncle Steve***

We have to bring a Christlike character to work.

**Have a character that exudes diligence:**

Proverbs 13:4: (NASB) *The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made fat.*

The sluggard wants, wants and wants, but sometimes you just have to pick up the shovel and start digging. Go to work! Exude diligence! Be the first one, even if you do not like it. The slaves in the New Testament were taught to do it as unto God. Surely we can do the same. We are not slaves and have a better environment, so let's be diligent.

**Have a character that breathes godly contentment in all experiences:**

1 Timothy 6:6-7: (NASB) *<sup>6</sup>But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. <sup>7</sup>For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.*

Godliness and contentment have to be combined. We can be godly by showing attention to God and wanting His will, but we can be restless. Once we are content, knowing that God takes care of us even when it is uncomfortable, that is what brings great gain.

**Be serious in your workplace - go beyond what is required - plow through challenges - finish:**

2 Timothy 4:5-8: (NASB) *<sup>5</sup>But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. <sup>6</sup>For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; <sup>8</sup>in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.*



**Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. He began, he persevered, he overcame:**

**John 17:1-4:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, Father, the hour has come; glorify Your son, that the son may glorify You, <sup>2</sup>even as You gave him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given him, he may give eternal life. <sup>3</sup>This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given me to do.

**Jesus finished the work and did exactly what he was supposed to. This is our example.**

## WORKPLACE REFLECTION:

Your character will inevitably reveal who you really are in the workplace or anywhere else. What type of person is your character describing?

A circular inset image showing a man with dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, sitting at a desk and resting his chin on his hand in a thoughtful pose.

What do people see when we go to work? What do they see in our leisure time? They see what we reflect, and we should be reflecting our Christianity. It is easy to leave it behind when we go to work, but we urge you not to. Take your Christianity with you and let it shine through your words, actions, diligence, integrity, mercy and understanding.



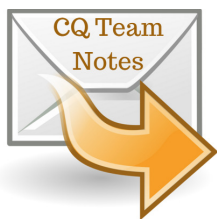


*So, what happens to my Christianity when I go to work?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*

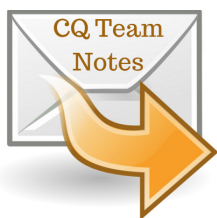


Join us next week for our podcast on July 16, 2018:  
Ep. #1032: Is the Bible Behind the Times on #metoo?

### BONUS MATERIAL



Ronnie contributes: The most difficult part of being a Christian with my job was when we would go on the road for trade shows, often in Las Vegas. It was awkward as I watched coworkers who I knew were married with children behave very differently with members of the opposite sex, as though they were temporarily living other lives. There seemed to be no conscience and no consequences. Things only got worse when alcohol was involved. There's something about alcohol that brings out the absolute worst in people. I would take my cue and escape to my hotel room as quickly as I could after dinner. The next morning, when the gossip started about who had gone to whose room, etc., I was always truly ignorant of the exploits that had occurred the night before. And that was good, because eventually, people stopped talking about that kind of stuff in front of me because I wasn't interested. And because I didn't know what had happened, I couldn't contribute and participate in the conversation.



Theresa's advice: When dealing with difficult experiences at work I try to remind myself:

- Jesus loves each of my coworkers and EVERYONE I interact with JUST as much as he loves me!
- My life goal is to reflect Jesus' love and principles and that's NOT shared by many people... yet!
- It is not my job to judge and condemn. Sin is sin whether telling a white lie or murdering someone, the consequences of these actions are just different. At the same time that doesn't mean I turn a blind eye to what is happening around me.
- There is often the opportunity for growth in dealing with uncomfortable situations. I've been seeing the ways I can improve and "Dare to be a Daniel."
- We need the kingdom!



- I have a lot of work to do on my own character - especially in giving grace and forgiveness.

It's HARD dealing with the influences at work and facing the desires of the world. We aren't called to have an easy life, in fact the opposite. When we face difficult experiences it helps reassure us that the Lord is working with and on us! Spending time with the Lord each day and meeting with others of faith as my dad says, "...helps push out the dents and polish everything back up" on our armor. I also have Scriptures written out that I can easily see as reminders and touchstones throughout the day. Saying breath prayers in the moment and reaching out to friends and the brotherhood for extra prayers and support in moments of weakness is also incredibly helpful for me.

***For a work to be considered good it must not only conform outwardly to the law of God, but it must be motivated inwardly by a sincere love for God. — R.C. Sproul***

**Matthew 12:9-15:** (NASB) <sup>9</sup>Departing from there, he went into their synagogue. <sup>10</sup>And a man was there whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?—so that they might accuse him. <sup>11</sup>And he said to them, What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? <sup>12</sup>How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. <sup>13</sup>Then he said to the man, Stretch out your hand! He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other. <sup>14</sup>But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, as to how they might destroy him. <sup>15</sup>But Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. Many followed him, and he healed them all.

Praying after John died...

**Jesus repeated himself to make sure his audience understood that he was NOT making things up but instead following God:**

**John 8:25-30:** (NASB) <sup>25</sup>So they were saying to him, Who are you? Jesus said to them, What have I been saying to you from the beginning? <sup>26</sup>I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world. <sup>27</sup>They did not realize that he had been speaking to them about the Father. <sup>28</sup>So Jesus said, When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and I do nothing on my own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught me. <sup>29</sup>And He who sent me is with me; He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him. <sup>30</sup>As he spoke these things, many came to believe in him.

**Jesus again giving credit to the Father:**

**John 12:48-50:** (NASB) <sup>48</sup>He who rejects me and does not receive my sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. <sup>49</sup>For I did not speak on my own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent me has given me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. <sup>50</sup>I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told me.

**Workplace advice:**

**Ephesians 4:25-32:** (NASB) <sup>25</sup>Therefore, laying aside falsehood, Speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not give the devil an opportunity. <sup>28</sup>He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. <sup>29</sup>Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the



moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup>Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

**Proverbs 18:7-10: (NASB)** <sup>7</sup>A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are the snare of his soul. <sup>8</sup>The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body. <sup>9</sup>He also who is slack in his work is brother to him who destroys. <sup>10</sup>The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe.

## ***How to Be a Christian in the Workplace***

***By Dr. Richard J. Krejcir***

Mel Brooks, the movie producer, said it best, "Life stinks!"

If you have spent any time in the workplace, you will have observed many different kinds of attitudes, personalities, and ways of approaching the job there. We all have different personalities, habits, desires, experiences, and expectations, all converging and conflicting, and the water cooler area becomes a gathering place for hearing the latest gossip, a hotbed of conflict and chaos. Somehow, in the midst of all this, we, as Christians, are called to distinction. This rubs us against the grain of our coworkers and employers, who have conflicting ideas. The Christian enters into a struggle with identity, values, attitudes, and feelings, all producing stress and fatigue.

We are Christians, yet we are also human, and we work with Christians as well as non-Christians. We are material beings who need a livelihood to provide for the daily substance of life. From food and shelter to leisure and entertainment, work becomes a necessary means for us to live and function in society. Work can also be a potential for so much more. A call, a vocation, or a job, whatever you call what you do in between your day of worship and church, whether it be a priest or a fry cook, we all have a purpose. We all have a job. Sometimes, it is the same, sometimes not, as we may be in the wrong place and job. Nevertheless, we have a call to be employed, to function in society, and to behave in that call.

We are also social beings, not just tools or devices, slaves or machines. We are spiritual beings who have been saved by our God and Creator and given the call to be virtuous and righteous. All our experiences, expectations, aptitudes, and attitudes come together in the workplace. And, all of these distinctions converge into our mindset and attitudes at work. So, what is the right attitude and approach with which to do our work? How do we get along with coworkers, bosses, and our God?

Work, job or vocation is a word we use to start to describe what we do in life, vocation has its root from the Latin verb "to call;" thus, our vocation and job is actually a call, similar to a minister. So we need to understand its role and significance in our life and how we are to be in our vocation as well as what it means in our walk with our Lord. Let us venture into God's Word and see what He has to say about what we do during the week. What and why we have work and what we are to do in that vocation and how we respond to others around us. The following passages are arranged so you can spend some time in the



Word, which will help you to develop a Biblical attitude of work. Also, several thoughts based on Scriptural insights are provided for you to pray about to nudge yourself into being a better person at work. You may discover what we do is not as important as how we do it!

### ***God's Call for the Employee (Ephesians 6:5-8)***

You may feel like a slave at work. Or, perhaps you treat others in that way thinking, I am in command. They work for me, and they have to do what I say! But, the key to this passage is the attitude we are to have, that of looking to Christ as our employer so we do our work for Him. Therefore, we are to be our best for His glory, regardless of our circumstances (Rom. 8:17; Phil. 2:1-11).

We may have a paycheck from McDonald's and a boss who may need some acne treatments, but our ultimate authority and manager is Christ Himself! We show our value--that Christ paid a price for us--so, we in turn can respond with a good work ethic (1 Cor. 7:23). We must adjust our mindset to see work as an opportunity to please Him, and in so doing, be a blessing to those around us.

As an employee we are called to Diligence! This allows us to operate with our best for Christ's highest with excitement and passion in order to complete our work and call from the Lord. It is practical obedience, which is the loving of our call and the pursuing of our work so we are doing our best for His glory. (Prov. 10:4; Rom. 12:11; Colossians 3:23)

Here are some more Scriptures about being an employee: Exodus 23:12; 35:2; Proverbs 10:26; 25:13; Ecclesiastes 2:4; 5:12; Colossians 3:17,22-25; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 Timothy 6:2; Titus 2:9,10; 1 Peter 2:18-20

### ***God's Call for the Employer***

God honors diligence and fairness. As an employer you are called to Diligence and to Fairness! These are the two characteristics we are to have in the workplace, and are especially essential for the manager. God hates the exploitation of people and will judge with severity those who do exploit others. So, why bother with the rotten characters of dishonesty and exploitation when we can have a much more efficient and happy workplace, where the workers are cared for and encouraged to produce instead of being forced and made to condescend.

Here are some more Scriptures about being an employer: Leviticus 19:13; Deuteronomy 24:4,14; Proverbs 27:18; Malachi 3:5; Luke 10:7; 1 Corinthians 9: 6-12; Ephesians 6:8; Colossians 3:17; 4:1; 1 Timothy 5:17,18

### ***God's Call for the Workplace***

As a worker, or an employer, God has a lot to say to us regarding our virtue at work.

- We are called to work with respect and honor to God and others: Genesis 2:15; 3:15; Proverbs 6:6-8; 10:4,5,26; 12:9; 13:4; 14:23; 18:9; 22:29; 31:11-31; Ecclesiastes 3:22; 5:12; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:8
- We are called to work with integrity: Proverbs 10:2; 15:27; Jeremiah 22:13; Ephesians 4:28





- We are warned about laziness: Exodus 20:9-11; 23:12; 34:21; Proverbs 16:27; 18:9; 19: 15; 22:13; 24:30-34; 1 Thessalonians 4:11,12; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-15
- We are called to honor just remuneration: Proverbs 3:27,28; 27:18; Luke 10:7; 1 Timothy 5:18; James 5:1-5

### ***Questions to Ponder***

After reading any of the above selected Scriptures, ask yourself these questions:

1. What attitudes, desires, and habits do you have that need to be changed?
2. How can you be encouraged by God's truths and encourage those who are in the workplace?
3. What warning is God giving you?
4. How can you lead a distinctive lifestyle in the workplace?
5. Have you considered the eternal results of a healthy work attitude, even in the face of strife and chaos?
6. How does a good worker reflect being a good witness for Christ and give him glory? Why is Glorifying God so important? What would this mean to you in further practice?
7. What we think we deserve may not correspond to what we get. What does that mean? Have you experienced this?
8. What can you do to make sure that your prayers really and truly seek the Lord and are not just me based? How would this help you be a good worker or boss?
9. How do we trust Him and accept His provisions even when we may not see them?
10. Christ is calling us to faithfulness that looks to him and not to what we think we want. How do our wants rob us of what is best and what is really prosperous?

