

A Biblical View of Work

1 Timothy 6:1-2

Radically Ordinary

1 Timothy 6:1-2

ALL WHO ARE UNDER THE YOKE OF SLAVERY SHOULD CONSIDER THEIR MASTERS WORTHY OF FULL RESPECT, SO THAT GOD'S NAME AND OUR TEACHING MAY NOT BE SLANDERED. ² THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVING MASTERS ARE NOT TO SHOW LESS RESPECT FOR THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE BROTHERS. INSTEAD, THEY ARE TO SERVE THEM EVEN BETTER, BECAUSE THOSE WHO BENEFIT FROM THEIR SERVICE ARE BELIEVERS, AND DEAR TO THEM. THESE ARE THE THINGS YOU ARE TO TEACH AND URGE ON THEM.

Attitudes Toward Bosses

1. Historical perspective
2. The secular perspective
 - a) Do as little as you can
 - b) Do it as quick as you can
 - c) Get away with as much as you can
 - d) I am owed
 - e) The problems are all “out there”

Attitudes Toward Bosses

1. The biblical perspective

a) The call to respect

honor as an element in the assignment of status to a person—‘honor

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A.

b) The call to sincerity

the totality of any object, mass, collective, or extension—‘all, every, each, whole.’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A.

c) Remember who the Boss is

⁷ SERVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY, AS IF YOU WERE
SERVING THE LORD, NOT MEN,

EPHESIANS 6:7

A Question of Motivation

1. A secular perspective

What's in it for me

2. The biblical perspective

⁵ SLAVES, OBEY YOUR EARTHLY MASTERS WITH RESPECT AND FEAR, AND WITH SINCERITY OF HEART, JUST AS YOU WOULD OBEY CHRIST. ⁶ OBEY THEM NOT ONLY TO WIN THEIR FAVOR WHEN THEIR EYE IS ON YOU, BUT LIKE SLAVES OF CHRIST, DOING THE WILL OF GOD FROM YOUR HEART. ⁷ SERVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY, AS IF YOU WERE SERVING THE LORD, NOT MEN, ⁸ BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT THE LORD WILL REWARD EVERYONE FOR WHATEVER GOOD HE DOES, WHETHER HE IS SLAVE OR FREE.

⁹ AND MASTERS, TREAT YOUR SLAVES IN THE SAME WAY. DO NOT THREATEN THEM, SINCE YOU KNOW THAT HE WHO IS BOTH THEIR MASTER AND YOURS IS IN HEAVEN, AND THERE IS NO FAVORITISM WITH HIM.

EPHESIANS 6:5-9

A Question of Motivation

3. The conflict

The attitude of the world

The attitude of the Lord

You do have a choice

The Promise

1. A temporal reward

DILIGENT HANDS WILL RULE, BUT LAZINESS ENDS IN
SLAVE LABOR. PROVERBS 12:24

THE SLUGGARD CRAVES AND GETS NOTHING,
BUT THE DESIRES OF THE DILIGENT ARE FULLY
SATISFIED. PROVERBS 13:4

The Promise

2. A heavenly reward

²² SLAVES, OBEY YOUR EARTHLY MASTERS IN EVERYTHING; AND DO IT, NOT ONLY WHEN THEIR EYE IS ON YOU AND TO WIN THEIR FAVOR, BUT WITH SINCERITY OF HEART AND REVERENCE FOR THE LORD. ²³ WHATEVER YOU DO, WORK AT IT WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AS WORKING FOR THE LORD, NOT FOR MEN, ²⁴ SINCE YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE AN INHERITANCE FROM THE LORD AS A REWARD. IT IS THE LORD CHRIST YOU ARE SERVING. ²⁵ ANYONE WHO DOES WRONG WILL BE REPAID FOR HIS WRONG, AND THERE IS NO FAVORITISM.

COLOSSIANS 3:22-25

The challenge

⁹ TEACH SLAVES TO BE SUBJECT TO THEIR MASTERS IN EVERYTHING, TO TRY TO PLEASE THEM, NOT TO TALK BACK TO THEM, ¹⁰ AND NOT TO STEAL FROM THEM, BUT TO SHOW THAT THEY CAN BE FULLY TRUSTED, SO THAT IN EVERY WAY THEY WILL MAKE THE TEACHING ABOUT GOD OUR SAVIOR ATTRACTIVE.

TITUS 2:9-10

So What

- Do you view work as a blessing or a curse?
- Who do you *really* serve?
- Does your commitment to Christ shape your attitude toward the work that you do? How?