

August 13, 2017

Ephesians 6:5-9

Employees and Employers

Greg hated his job and he hated going to work. He did as little as possible at work – unless his boss was watching. He called in sick every time he could get away with it and he often complained about his job to his family and his fellow employees.

Greg also hated his boss. He knew he had to put up a good front or risk demotion, so he was polite and complimentary to his boss' face. Behind his back, however, Greg insulted and demeaned his boss to the other employees

Have you ever known an employee like Greg?

Christians are supposed to walk worthy of the Lord (**Eph. 4:1**). They are to be filled with the Holy Spirit (**Eph. 5:18**). Wives are supposed to submit to their husbands (**Eph. 5:22**) and husbands are to love their wives like Jesus Christ loved the church (**Eph. 5:25**). Children are supposed to obey their parents (**Eph. 6:1**), and parents are to raise their children in a godly manner (**Eph. 6:4**).

What does the Bible have to say about how Christians should behave at work? You'll learn about that in this lesson.

Eph. 6:5 What are servants supposed to do?

Slaves, bondservants, and hired servants were common during Bible times. How does this instruction relate to our modern world? The very best modern correlation to “servants” is “employees.” What, then, are Christian employees supposed to do?

Eph. 6:5 “Be _____ to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with _____ and _____, in _____ of your heart, as unto _____.”

“*Fear and trembling*” speaks of reverence and respect. “*Singleness of heart*” means giving single-minded devotion and attention to doing a good job. Christian employees are told to serve their employers “*as unto Christ*” (**Col. 3:22**). **It is a shame and disgrace for a Christian employee to be anything less than respectful toward his or her boss, or to be a lazy or unproductive worker.**

1 Peter 2:18 Is the Christian employee only required to be obedient and respectful if his or her boss is good to them?

Eph. 6:6 How are Christian employees **NOT** supposed to work?

Who are Christian employees actually serving?

Colossians 3:23 Why should we serve “heartily?”

Eph. 6:7 “With good will doing service, as to the _____, and not to _____.”

You don't really serve your earthly employer. Regardless of how bad your earthly boss might be, your Heavenly Boss is righteous, true, honest, and treats you better than any human being ever could. Remembering this will make you a better employee.

Eph. 6:8 This verse promises that if we do well we will receive a reward. From whom will we receive it?

Your paycheck or verbal praise from your boss is not your ultimate reward.

The Bible is very clear about how a Christian employee is to work and respect his or her boss. **The only way you can do those things is to be filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit of God (Eph. 5:18).** What does the Bible have to say about the duties of Christian employers?

Eph. 6:9 “And, ye _____, do the same things unto _____, forbearing _____.” How do you think Christian bosses or employers should treat their employees?

If employers know one truth they will treat their employees right. What is that truth?

Colossians 4:1 Where is the master of the earthly employer?

The Spirit-filled Christian “master” realizes that he is under a higher Authority – the Lord Jesus Christ.

Concluding Thoughts: Spirit-filled Christians should be the very best employees. They will work hard, “*as unto Christ.*” They will be respectful toward their employers and supervisors. They will give an honest day's work and they will not be complainers.

How do you measure up as an employee? Do you have a good reputation at work? Are you respectful to your superiors? Do you work “*as unto Christ?*”

If you answered “No” to any of those questions, you need to confess your sins to God right now. Ask God to forgive you and make you the best employee you can be. Then go to your boss. Confess your shortcomings to him or her and ask forgiveness. Then go to your fellow employees and ask their forgiveness for being a poor testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Are you an employer, boss, or supervisor? Do you treat your employees with respect and set a good example before them? If not, you need to confess your sin to God right now and then ask your employees to forgive you for not representing the Lord well.

Project: Make things right at work and ask the Lord to make you the very best employee or employer on your job this week.