

THE OFFICE

Colossians 3:22-4:1

- **"Slaves" were the primary work force in the 1st century.**
- **The Bible teaches that: 1) God disapproves of slavery (Galatians 3:28); and 2) God approves of hard work (Proverbs 14:23, Colossians 3:23).**
- **"Work" has always been a part of God's plan for people.**
- *"The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it."* (Genesis 2:15)
- **Americans spend 1/3 of their life working, 1/3 of their life sleeping, and the other 1/3 is time off, vacation, before work age, and retirement.**
- "85% of people worldwide are unhappy with their jobs because of 1) poor compensation, 2) work stress, and 3) offenses with co-workers and employers." - Recent Gallup Poll
- **God doesn't give us permission to work half-heartedly even when we believe we're not paid fairly, when we're stressed out with our work load, or when our co-workers are lazy.**
- **"***Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."* (Colossians 3:23)
- **Unless we have purpose beyond our "job requirements" we will lack fulfillment in life.**
- *"So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."* (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- **God has told us to "turn our work into worship."**
- ***What steps can I take to "turn my work into worship"?***

Work Will Become Worship When We:

REALIZE WE'RE ALSO WORKING FOR <u>JESUS</u>

- *"Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."* (Colossians 3:22-23)
- **When we focus our efforts at work on presenting what we do to the Lord our work will become worship.**
- **We can be confident to present our work to the Lord when we *Submit To Our Bosses.***
    - *"Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do."* (Colossians 3:22)
- **We can be confident to present our work to the Lord when we *Work With Integrity.***
    - *"Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you."* (Colossians 3:22)
- **We can be confident to present our work to the Lord when we *Give Our Best Effort.***
    - *"Work willingly at whatever you do."* (Colossians 3:23)
- ***In what ways have I not been honoring the Lord with my work?***

Work Will Become Worship When We:

REMEMBER GOD'S <u>FAITHFULNESS</u>

- *"Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ. But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites."* (Colossians 3:24-25)
- **The Lord is faithful to fulfill His word.**
- *"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise."* (Hebrews 10:23)
- **We're not getting away with slacking on the job just because no one notices.**
- *"But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done."* (Colossians 3:25)
- **Our compensation from the Lord is far more valuable than any paycheck or fringe benefits.**
- *"Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward."* (Colossians 3:24)
- **Remembering God's faithfulness during difficulties builds our faith to continue to do what is right in God's sight. (Joshua 4:20-24)**
- ***What has the Lord done in the past that is a reminder of His faithfulness?***

Work Will Become Worship When We:

RELEASE GOD'S <u>LOVE</u> TO OUR EMPLOYEES

- *"Masters, be just and fair to your slaves Remember that you also have a Master - in heaven."* (Colossians 4:1)
- **Chrisitian employers and supervisors have a responsibility beyond making a profit.**
- Jesus said, "*No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."* (Matthew 6:24)
- *"Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth."* (Colossians 3:2)
- **Our primary goal with our employees should be to love them well.**
- Jesus said, *"Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other."* (John 13:34)
- **We love our employees well when we *Display Care Beyond Their Worklife.***
    - *"Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."* (Philippians 2:4)
- **We love our employees well when we *Invite Them Into Our Faith.***
    - Jesus said, *"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."* (Mark 16:15)
- **We love our employees well when we *Encourage Them To Follow Jesus.***
    - Jesus said, *"Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you."* (Matthew 28:20)
- ***What can you do to love your employees or fellow workers better?***

- **Worship is far more than the songs we sing on Sunday, it's the life we choose to live Sunday - Saturday.**
- *"Give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him."* (Romans 12:1)
- **One of the greatest opportunities we have to impact our world is what we do with the time God has given us in the workplace.**
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message, and how am I going to respond to it?***