



Empowering People to Change the World

Culture of Honor in the Workplace

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The 2022 Wholeheart Declaration

I am growing to love Jesus with all my heart.

I am building my life on the Word of God.

I am trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I am learning to live courageously.

I will shine the light of Christ in my family and community.

Honor Christ in the Workplace

What we observe in the last two chapters of Ephesians is an emphasis on honor.

- The wife is to honor her husband.
- The husband is to honor his wife.
- Children are to honor their parents.
- Parents are to honor their children.

Now Paul takes us into the place where many of us spend the most of our waking hours—the work place.

- There has crept into our modern thinking a kind of thinking that probably began most profoundly with the rise of the monastic movement—this separation of the “secular and sacred.”
- An attitude and worldview that to really serve God, you have to be a priest, monk, nun, or pastor.
- We even have terms like “priest and laity” that erects a wall.
- At The Road, we just don't use such terms. Everyone is a minister. We are all about a Kingdom of God revolution in the Rockies through empowering people to change the world.

Every saint has the potential to change the world.

- The Bible teaches that everyone is called a “saint.”

Ephesians 4:7-8

“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore He says:

**‘When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men.’”**

- All believers have been given spiritual gifts; find your anointing, your gifting.
- All believers are “ministers” of the Gospel.
- But we have limited spiritual gifts to be only those gifts that function within the church.
- I believe you can be gifted as a mechanic, doctor, mother, etc., and that is your ministry area.
- Your vocation is your mission field.

How do we honor Christ in the workplace?

Ephesians 6:5

The context here is slavery. He first speaks to the slaves. There must have been slaves and slave owners in the same church. Bondservant, *doulos*, means “slave.”

- So, he begins with the employer—and I know some of you feel like slaves in your jobs, but that’s another issue.
- If you have a boss, how should you respond? What should be your attitude at work?

- Especially in the fact that you ARE being paid. A slave at that time was getting nothing but a hovel to live in and meager food, totally under the control of a slave master. He/she had nothing!

1) Honor Christ through sincerely obeying your boss.

- Not doing bad things, immoral things, unethical things; but you wouldn't be obeying Christ if you did that.
- But in your job, obey the commands of your employer as you would if Christ had told you to do those things.
- SINCERELY! Do it from your heart. Be sincere!
- Show up on time, work hard, do your job, and be full of joy!
- Jesus is ultimately your Employer. He got you that job! Now make your job your mission field.
- Christians should be the best employees!
- Employees, yield to your employer with honor. Maybe you don't like some of the rules. Well, I wonder why God has you in that job? Maybe your employer is being used by God to discipline you!
- We don't like the word, but Paul is talking about submission to your employer as you would submit to Christ.
 - Paul just can't get away from the fact that everything flows down from our relationship with Christ.
 - 5:21 - Mutual submission: "in the fear of God."
 - 5:22 - Wives submit: "as to the Lord."
 - 5:25 - Husbands love your wives: "just as Christ."

- 6:1 - Children obey your parents: “in the Lord.”
- And now in 6:5 - “Bondservants, obey your masters.”
- I find often that people who cannot submit to earthly authorities cannot submit to heavenly authority.

Verses 6-7

- Ex. You know these guys: “Boss Radar”- they sleep on the job; then when the boss comes by, they are awake; and then they go back to sleep. They get mad at you because you work: “Hey man, chill out, we can make this job last for five years; don’t be in a hurry, you make us all look bad, man.”

2) Honor Christ through working with all your heart.

- Paul says almost the exact same thing in his letter to the Colossians.

Colossians 3:22-23

“Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”

- Work for God. Honor again!! Honoring the Lord by the way you do your work.
- This is your ministry! How you work is a reflection of your ministry.
- You are a missionary at your job!

Be wholehearted at work! Do your work “heartily!” In the Greek, it means “to exceed expectations!”

- Wow! God is saying, “When you get to work, work like you’re working for ME, work with all your heart, exceed everyone’s expectations!”
- Not to be seen by men or noticed—in other words not “brown nosing,” but work for ME! Work for Jesus, even if no one even notices and guess what? They won’t notice at first, but you’re not doing it for them. You are working for Christ.
- You are on the mission field.
- You are worshipping the Lord by working hard.
- Worship is called work! Worship is called work!
- Very few are blessed to really enjoy what they do. Most do not enjoy their job.
- God the Father at Jesus’ baptism, “This is my Son in whom I am well pleased.” Jesus had done no miracles, no ministry, and had no disciples yet; but God said He was well pleased with him already.
 - He is talking about being a carpenter. He hung doors, and He patched and built furniture. Jesus never patched a window with some fake gum stuff, He never wrote a bad check, and He never ripped people off.
 - He never took extra material to the next job and charged the last guy...He was worshipping God!
 - People would say of Yeshua/Joshua, “You ever see anyone so upright in His business? You ever hear Him singing hymns on the job? You ever see how gracious He is when He writes out the bill? See how He pays every cent to the government in taxes?”

- God is not asking us to do anything He did not do.
- If you work for Christ, guess what happens? Guess what happens?

Verse 8

3) Honor Christ at work, and you will be rewarded.

- There were 60 million slaves in the Roman provinces at the time.
- There is a reward for doing right.
- What an amazing promise that “whatever good we do, God notices...and He rewards us.”
- Ex. When the mandates started, many of you lost your jobs because you would not comply; you believed it violated your civil rights, your body...and God is blessing you with new work, new opportunities...
- God “opens doors that man cannot shut.”

Verse 9

4) Employers, do the same thing! Honor your people!

- Now employers, do the same thing to your employees.
- Every master has a master...God is your Boss. You will get blessed!
- “Ministry” begins everyday...your company is the mission field.
- When you honor your employees, you are honoring God.

- Ex. I know Christian owners who treat their people with contempt; and most of the time, they are miserable and have a terrible witness!
- Ex. I know men and women in the political realm who claim to be Christians, and they lie, cheat, create division and confusion, and they will be duly rewarded in time.
- Listen, if you have the privilege of owning your own company, be a model of honoring your people, doing everything with integrity, blessing our community with your services.
- Who is your master? If it's Christ, you can walk with a clear conscience, freedom, and joy. But if you have another master, you are slave.
 - Drugs are a cruel master.
 - Illicit sex and lust are a cruel master
 - Money, great servant, but a cruel master.
 - Alcohol will destroy you.
 - Fame and power flee away.
 - There is One Master Who died for you. The best thing you can do for your kids is to teach them to obey you so that they can learn to obey their Father in Heaven. So that they will accept Jesus, not just as Savior, but as Lord! Not just as fire insurance, but He wants you live moral purity. Obedience produces purity.
 - This is all about the Spirit-filled life; this is impossible.
 - Be filled with the Spirit! Ephesians 5:18.

Ministry Time:

- **Have you let Christ have control of your work? Have you let Him have control of your job? Is your job a service to the Lord?**
- **As an owner, are you treating your people with honor?**
- **Rededicate your work to God, your finances to God.**