

How can I be a Godly employee?

Each of us must eat and have shelter from the elements of weather. All of us will work for someone else either in a direct employer/employee relationship or in a client/provider relationship. It is important to consider how we work as we work for others.

1. Why should I work at all if I can find another way to obtain food and shelter?

2 Thessalonians **3:7-12**

Proverbs 1:14-16

Ecclesiastes **3:22**

1 Timothy **5:8, 11-14**

Matthew **20:8-12**

The first reason that each should work is because God commands us to work in order to provide for our own bread and shelter. One of the reasons given for men to work is that the failure to work often results in them becoming “busy bodies” and impeding the work and reputation of others. The one who does not work will often blame others for their own lack of “success” in the things of the world. One of the reasons for working is the attitude that is generated by both those who do not work and by those who see what appears to be the prosperity of those not working. The non-worker begins to view what they have received as that which is rightfully their own. The worker begins to resent the non-worker since the worker works hard and obtains nothing more than what the non-worker obtains resulting in questioning why bother working at all. One such exception regarding working is the work of the wife. Her work is not so much to raise money in order to provide for food, shelter, and clothing. Her work is to bear and raise children while keeping the house in order. This is a difficult challenge that ought to be encouraged.

2. What should my attitude toward my work and my employer be?

Proverbs **16:1-3**

Colossians **1:10-12; 3:22-24**

1 Timothy 6:1

1 Peter 2:18

Isaiah 29:15

Ephesians **6:5-8**

Titus 2:9-10

Philippians **2:3-4**

It is appropriate to view the work that you are doing for your employer as though the work is being done not for your human employer but for the Lord Jesus Christ. This will often mean setting the needs of the employer above your own personal needs. You are to serve the employer with the power that God has given you to serve and to work.

3. When working, what role does my relationship with Jesus Christ play?

Matthew **6:33**

2 Corinthians 13:7-8

Romans **2:23-24**

James **4:13-17**

1 Peter **4:1-5**

Acts **4:19**

Our first priority ought to be in seeking out the kingdom of God. This would manifest itself by keeping us from becoming “workaholics”. God has given some of us a family to raise that needs to be at sufficient level of priority that they are not neglected. A balance between work and family must be established so that God's name and character are exalted. This also means that we are to

work honestly and respectfully before God and man, especially if the employer desires you to do something that is either illegal, immoral, unethical, or simply contrary to God's law, that God's commands must reign supreme in our decisions and actions.