

Money, Part IV – Work—Who’s Your Boss

INTRODUCTION

Review

- Let’s review
 - God’s part is ownership, control and provision
 - Our part is stewardship-faithful stewardship
 - Essential parts of stewardship is:
 - Avoiding debt
 - Spending wisely
 - Giving Generously

WHEEL OF FAITHFULNESS

- Avoid Debt
- Wise Spending
- Generous Giving
- **Hard Work**
- Save/Invest
- Train Children
- Seek Counsel
- Absolute Honesty

Who’s Your Boss?

- God’s job is to provide, our job is to be a steward, which requires work
 - Important for Christians to understand that their job is their calling given to them by God.
 - In a lifetime, an average person spends 100,000 hours at work. It is imperative for Christians to live out their faith in the workplace.
 - Gen. 2:15 -
 - First thing we see that God commands man was to work
 - Work was initiated for our benefit in the sinless garden
 - Work is not a curse, the curse was that it was made more difficult (Gen 3:17-19)
- I. God created work for our good/benefit-created before sin.
- a. Gen. 3:17 curse is pronounced “by the sweat of your brow you shall till the ground.” Thus the earth cannot be worked efficiently, must be done with struggle.
 - b. Work is necessary (commanded by God)
 - i. In Exodus 34:21, 6 days you shall work
 - ii. II Thes 3:10, if you will not work, you will not eat (NT upholding OT command)
 - iii. Prov 12:24 work will develop you, mature you, shape you
 - 1. Primary purpose of work is to develop character
 - 2. It has been said, “While a carpenter builds a house, the house is building him.” – True of any honorable professions.

II. God's part in work

- a. No matter what we do, the skills given is from the Lord (Ex 36:1)
 - i. Scripture does not elevate on job above another
 1. David=Shepherd & King
 2. Luke=Doctor
 3. Lydia=Retailer
 4. Daniel=Government worker/ruler
 5. Joseph=Jail supervisor/house steward/prime minister
 6. Paul=Tentmaker
 7. Jesus=Carpenter
 - ii. "In God's economy there is equal dignity in the labor of an auto mechanic and president of Toyota, in the labor of the senior pastor and a secretary of the church."
 - iii. Be content with gifts God has given you, with the profession God has called you to
- b. God gives us the skills (Ex 36:1-2)
 - It's not a matter of someone being better; it's a matter of capabilities
- c. God gives success -- no matter what job we are given (story of Joseph)
 - i. "The Lord was with Joseph", "the Lord caused"
 - ii. The Lord gives promotions, bonuses as He sees fit and for His purposes (Ps 75:6)
- d. God controls promotions — Ps 75:6-7
 - i. Our employers/bosses do not control whether we get promoted or not
 - ii. When we understand this, it changes our attitude towards work and our employers
 - iii. Allows for us to avoid one of the major reasons for stress and frustration

- Stop and think about it – God gives you your skills, He controls your success and your promotion. He does not elevate one profession over another, that is man-made. It's very liberating. Therefore, we can easily fulfill the scriptural injunction of Col. 3:23-24 – We work for Christ!

III. Our Part --what kind of Workers should we be

- We serve God not man when we work. When we have the perspective that Jesus Christ as our boss, we will try to be more faithful in our jobs. Remind yourself each day that you work for Christ.
- a. We are to be hard workers
 - i. Ecc 9:10
 - ii. Prov 12:27
 - iii. Prov 18:9
 - iv. II Thes. 3:8-9

"Your work should be at such a level that people will never equate laziness & mediocrity with God."

- b. Warning: we are not to overwork – Ex 34:21 –
 - i. Many people today die prematurely because they don't rest
 - ii. It's a statement of faith, we can get done what we need to in 6 days
- c. Employee's responsibilities
 - i. Honest
 - ii. Faithful
 - iii. Prayerful
 - iv. Honors Employer
- d. Dan. 6—Daniel is our example (Dan. 6),
 - i. He was honest (v. 4)
 - ii. He was faithful (v. 4)
 - iii. Prayerful (v.10)
 - 1. when he knew he would be punished he prayed just as he had always done
 - 2. None of us will likely face the demands that Daniel had as one of 3 key leaders of a nation/kingdom, yet he still found time to pray each day
 - iv. Honor your employers (v. 21), see also I Pet 2:18
 - v. Honor other employees – don't gossip or join in when others do—Prov. 30:10

Conclusion:

Each of us has a specific calling or purpose which the Lord intends for us to fulfill in our work. Eph. 2:10—for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

- Each of us is uniquely made and given special physical, emotional and mental characteristics and abilities.
- The Lord created each of us for a particular job, and He endowed us with the necessary skills, aptitudes and desires to accomplish this work
- Christians often commute between the sacred and the secular. This should not be.
- Our work is our calling. Whatever our task is, our boss is God.
- Our past experiences prepare us for our current calling
 - E.g. all the various jobs and the lessons learned from each one
- Knowing you have been called to good works (i.e. your calling) allows you to focus and gives you clarity for what God wants you to do. Allows you to say no to those things that will distract you from your calling.
- The good can become the enemy of the best—don't put too much on your plate