

Relationships at Work Ephesians 6:5-9

Introduction

Relationships in every sphere of life: family, friends, classmates, teammates, work, neighbors, and church, every aspect of our lives involves relationships.

Chaps 1-3 Paul gives us an overview of What God has Done in our Lives

Our Identity lays the foundation for our ability to have healthy relationships

Part 1 of the RCOC, our relationships and role within the **local church**, Eph 4:1-16

Part 2 of the Royal Code of Conduct, our **Individual Walk** Eph 4:17-5:21

Part 3 of the Royal Code of Conduct, God's design for our **relationships**

Listen to the Boss

"Slaves" in the Roman empire: they did everything, doctors, lawyers, accountants, teachers, clerks, laborers, household managers, even entertainers.

vs 5 Command: _____ those who are your masters

υπακουω to listen, obey, respond

How: with fear and trembling... as to Christ

vs 6 Not for the usual reason: Not to be a man pleaser

BUT as slaves of _____ Doing the _____ of God from the heart

vs 7 Our Mindset: With good will render service **as to the Lord**

vs 8 Long Term View: We will receive back from the Lord, (both slaves and free)

vs 9 And you Masters: The same applies to you

Give up threatening, Usual manner: *Gentiles lord it over them*, Matt 20:25-28

You both have the same Master in heaven!

Parallel Passage: **Colossians 3:22 – 4:1**

Underlying Principles in this Passage

God's View of Work

Our Ultimate Accountability before Jesus Christ,
The *Judgment Seat of Christ*, (our topic next week)

Contrasting World Views:

Human Viewpoint of Work, a necessary evil, that detracts from the pursuit of happiness, Something to be avoided, and relegated to lower class people.

Divine Viewpoint of Work, Man was created to work, Work is central to our purpose in life.

Principles of Work

1. God gave Adam a job to do, Subdue the Earth, be a steward over My Creation (Work existed in Perfect Environment, before the Fall.) Gen 1:28; 2:15
2. With the Fall, Work became MUCH harder. Now all creation resists, Gen 3:17-19
3. Work is part of God's Will for mankind, Ex 20:9-11; 23:12; Duet 5:13-15
God has regulated the amount of work in our lives.
4. Work is honorable, You reap what you sow, Ps 128:2; 2 Cor 9:6; Gal 6:7
5. If you don't work, you don't eat, 2 Thess 3:6-15
6. We are to be compassionate, and provide for the Poor, Lev 19:9-10; Prov 28:27
7. There will be work during the Kingdom Reign of Christ, Is 65:21-25
(all the parables about reigning with Christ over cities, Lk 19:11-27)

Man is created to work, to be a steward over God's Creation.

The Judaea/Christian Work Ethic (Protestant Work Ethic)

Prov 6:6-11; 10:4-5; 11:1-3; 12:11,24,27; 13:4,11; 14:23; 21:5

*Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings,
He will not stand before obscure men. Prov 22:29*

Work Relationships

Respect & Obey the Boss, 1 Pet 2:18; 1 Tim 6:1-2

Do not be argumentative, or steal, Our integrity at work reflects directly on the reputation of the doctrine of God our Savior, **Titus 2:9-10**

We are not to brown nose, or play politics to get ahead at work, we are not to seek the approval of men, Col 3:22-23

*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord
rather than for men. Col 3:23*

Ultimately, we are to view Jesus Christ as our boss, and work accordingly.

Work & Our Role as Ambassadors

Work is one element of the Royal Code of Conduct.

As the believer lives out these principles, we become qualified to serve as an Ambassador. (the doctrine of God is adorned in the eyes of others)

Every believer is in Full Time Service to the Lord. Often, our work environment is the realm of our work as Ambassadors for Christ.

Who do you work with, who needs to be reconciled to God?

(But not on the Boss's time!)