

HOME BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Christians in the Workplace

- 1 -- *Making a Living*
- 2 -- *Balance Between Work and Family*
- 3 -- *Dealing With Wrong Living and
Wrong Attitudes at Work*
- 4 -- *Dealing With an Unreasonable Boss*
- 5 -- *A Proper Self-Esteem at Work*
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Lesson One

"Making a Living"

(Deuteronomy 25:13-16)

Does it really matter to God how we earn our living or make the money we use to sustain our families and give to God and others? We believe that the above passage in the Old Testament answers this question at least indirectly, if not directly! The Bible gives many principles by which we can be governed—not only in how we are to use money, but also how we obtain it. Underlying this question are such issues as honesty and integrity. We believe that it matters to God, not only how we earn our living, but how we behave on the job as well.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is an abomination to the Lord? (Prov. 11:1; 20:10)

2. What can destroy the Christian? (Prov. 11:3)

3. What will happen to dishonest gain? (Prov. 13:11)

4. What is the wrong way to get wealth? (Prov. 21:6)

5. Do the above passages indicate that it is wrong to gain money through dishonest means? _____

6. Is the extra money gained dishonestly worth the loss of my soul? (Matt. 16:25-26) _____

7. What is so important about being honest in our dealings?

a) Luke 8:15 _____

b) Rom. 12:17 _____

c) Rom. 13:13 _____

d) 1 Pet. 2:12 _____

- e) 2 Cor. 13:7 _____
- f) 1 Thess. 4:12 _____
- g) Heb. 13:18 _____

8. Does the way we conduct ourselves at work and our attitudes bring glory to God? (1 Cor. 10:31) _____

9. What do we do when our job seemingly requires for us to either be dishonest or to go contrary to what we are commanded to do as a Christian? (Acts 5:28-29) _____

10. What are the primary reasons for making money?

- a) Matt. 6:25-26, 30, 31, 33 _____
- b) 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7 _____
- c) Gal. 6:2, 10; Jas. 1:27 _____
- d) Rom. 13:6-7 _____
- e) 1 Tim. 5:8, 16 _____
- f) 2 Cor. 12:14 _____

11. For how long is my responsibility for my family? (1 Tim. 5:3-4, 8, 16; Eph. 6:1-3) _____

12. What is said of the lazy or indolent person?

- a) Prov. 14:23 _____
- b) Prov. 18:9 _____
- c) Prov. 19:15 _____
- d) Prov. 19:24 _____
- e) Prov. 20:4 _____
- f) Prov. 21:5 _____
- g) Prov. 21:25-26 _____
- h) Prov. 30:15 _____

Lesson Two

**"Balance:
Between Work and Family"**

(1 Samuel 2:12-18)

Why do children turn out bad? Does the blame totally lie at the feet of parents? Is it necessary for parents to spend time with their children? How do parents balance their work with the needed time with their children? It is easy at times to come up with questions, but answering them may become a real challenge. Humans have a tendency to go to extremes. In order to correct an extreme position they may even go to an opposite extreme. In most instances, what is needed is a balanced approach to solve the problem. We believe that parents need to learn how to balance their work and family situation where both are served well. An Old Testament example can give us some insight possibly to a parent who did not seem to balance his work and time with his children.

1. What good can be said of Eli about his work?

- a) 1 Sam. 1:12 _____

- b) 1 Sam. 1:13-14 _____

- c) 1 Sam. 1:17 _____

- d) 1 Sam. 2:20 _____

- e) 1 Sam. 2:18 _____

- f) 1 Sam. 3:18 _____

- g) 1 Sam. 2:26 _____

2. What were the sins of Eli's sons?

- a) 1 Sam. 2:12 _____

- b) 1 Sam. 2:13-14 _____

- c) 1 Sam. 2:15 _____

- d) 1 Sam. 2:16 _____
- e) 1 Sam. 2:17 _____
- f) 1 Sam. 2:22 _____

3. What has caused parents to work more and neglect their children? _____

4. How would you evaluate the following thoughts about "too-busy" parents?

- a) "Children tend to feel alienated." _____
- b) "They feel that no concern is felt for them." _____
- c) "They get the idea that they are not important." _____
- d) "They tend to have a poor self-image." _____
- e) "Parents tend to become strangers to their children." _____
- f) "Real earnest training and discipline are neglected." _____

5. What are some suggestions for proper balance between work and family? _____

6. What are some advantages or reasons given for mothers working outside the home? _____

7. Why has God designed the woman to conceive, bear, and care for children? (1 Tim. 2:15; Titus 2:4-5). _____

8. What is meant by the expression that younger women are to be "home-makers?" (Titus 2:5). _____

Lesson Three

"Dealing With Wrong Living and Wrong Attitudes at Work"

(2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

A Christian should have the proper attitudes, words, and actions in the workplace. We need to know how to conduct ourselves properly. We need to know what God says about such, but we also need to use some common sense in our efforts to be a good and effective influence on those about us.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What can we expect of people who are not committed Christians?

a) Eph. 4:22 _____

b) Eph. 2:1-3 _____

2. What are some sins that we will confront at work?

a) Eph. 4:22-31 _____

b) Eph. 5:11-18 _____

Col. 3:5, 8-9 _____ c)

d) Gal. 5:19-21, 26 _____

3. What are some sexual perversions? _____

4. What two admonitions are given to the Christian?

a) Eph. 5:11(a) _____

b) Eph. 5:11(b) _____

5. In what sense do we have no fellowship with such?

- a) 1 Cor. 5:9-13 _____

- b) 2 Cor. 6:14-18 _____

- b) 2 John 9-11 _____

6. When and how do we "expose" or "rebuke" them? (Eph. 5:1-8; 1 Pet. 3:15)

- _____ a) Walk away?
- _____ b) Say "No?"
- _____ c) Preach to them?
- _____ d) Openly rebuke them before others?
- _____ e) Other _____

7. What are some bad attitudes that people show to Christians?

- a) Eph. 4:17 _____
- b) Eph. 4:26 _____
- c) Eph. 4:31 _____
- d) John 7:7; 17:14 _____
- e) Others _____

8. What does it mean to have a non-critical attitude towards others?

- a) Matt. 11:16-19 _____

- b) Rom. 14:19 _____

- c) Matt. 7:12 _____

Lesson Four

"Dealing with an Unreasonable Boss"

(Ephesians 4:25-29)

When the Gospel spread throughout the Roman World, many who were reached were slaves who had very little or no real freedom. They did have an existence if they were a good worker for their master. What kind of an outlook should a slave have towards his master? What if his master was ruthless or harsh, etc., should this affect his work? These and other questions had to be dealt with in that period of time—which gave general instructions and principles for those of us today that work for others to make a living. Possibly, there is only a small percentage of people who really love their work. If you don't like your job, but also have a boss that is very hard to get along with—how do you treat him or what should be your attitude towards him?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. If your work situation is not too good, why do you stay with it? _____

2. What was James' suggestion in dealing with a bad situation?
(James 5:1-9) _____

3. What are some reasons why "bosses" will be harsh to workers?

4. What are some ways to make a bad situation easier?

a) 1 Peter 2:18 _____

b) 1 Peter 2:19-24 _____

c) 1 Peter 5:6-7 _____

d) Eph. 4:28 _____

e) Matt. 5:43-45 _____

e) Eph. 6:5-8 _____

f) Matt. 20:26-28 _____

5. What do I feel is the greatest motivations for me to do my best at work—even though my situation may not be good? _____

6. If you were a boss, how would you treat the workers you are over? _____

7. Do you feel that you should pursue your own business? _____

8. Can you handle success of building your own business? _____

9. What are some advantages of owning your own business? _____

10. What are some disadvantages of owning your own business? _____

11. What lesson can we learn from the "rich farmer" about owning one's own business? (Luke 12:16-21)

Lesson Five

"A Proper Self-Esteem at Work"

(Philippians 2:1-4)

Extremes need to be avoided! When dealing with having a proper self-esteem there are two extreme positions that we need to avoid so that we can have the "proper" self-esteem as a Christian. A proper self-esteem is vital to our physical existence, our mental health, and even our spiritual destiny. The following two quotations help to illustrate this need:

"Equal in importance to the need for love is the need that we are worthwhile both to ourselves and to others."

"If we do not fulfill our need to feel worthwhile, we will suffer as acutely as when we fail to love and be loved."

We believe that a basic sense of one's own value—not vanity or false pride, but a proper sense of self-regard or one's self-worth—is important in one's work situation. We trust that the following questions and Scripture will help to support this concept.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Can you give a name to the two extreme positions of how one can view themselves?

a) Exo. 4:10-14; Matt. 25:24-30 _____

b) Rom. 12:10; Lk. 14:7-11 _____

2. What are some "possible" reasons why Moses viewed himself as he did when God called him? _____

3. What are some outcomes of the above two extremes? (1 Cor. 1:10-13) _____

4. What is a proper view of ourselves>

- a) 2 Cor. 13:5 _____

- b) Gal. 6:1-4 _____

5. What is a correct view of others?

- a) 1 Pet. 2:17 _____

- b) Matt. 22:39 _____

- c) Matt. 20:26-27 _____

6. What do the following passages indicate about our view of ourselves?

- a) Lk. 14:10-11 _____

- b) Phil. 2:5-11 _____

7. Why do people not show proper respect for their fellow-workers?

- a) Prov. 26:12 _____

- b) Prov. 28:25 _____

- c) Prov. 29:23 _____

8. How does God build our self-esteem? (1 Jn. 3:1; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9) _____

9. How can we build a healthy self-respect of ourselves at work?

- a) Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:8 _____

- b) Prov. 31:31 _____

- c) Rom. 2:14-15; Matt. 6:33 _____

Lesson Six

"Light Shining in Darkness"

(2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

The Apostle John warns God's people: *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."* (1 Jn. 2:15). The word "world" is used in more than one sense. In this passage it is trying to identify those people or those things that are contrary to the will of God. John shows these by the next verse (16) when he indicates the allurements of the world are the *"Lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life."* This word "world" is trying to identify people whose primary interest is in this life only. To be worldly-minded is to be concerned for the things here and now that can give satisfaction or pleasure. Jesus uses the concept of "world" in contrast to Light. People who love the light want to hear and accept truth from God. Those who are of the world love darkness or falsehood or evil (John 3:19-21).

Men today have coined an expression that tries to identify the "world" in contrast to light, truth, or righteousness—it is *"a Permissive Society."* There are other terms such as: "Fun loving Indulgence," "Self-centered Living," "Unrestrained Living," "Not recognizing or accepting the rightness or wrongness of an activity according to God's Standard."

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why does Jesus use "light" and "salt" to represent the Christian in the world? (Matt. 5:13-16) _____

2. Why is friendship with the "world" such a temptation for the Christian? (Jas. 4:1-4) _____

3. Why are the attitudes called "Beatitudes" in Matt. 5:3-12? _____

4. In order to have the proper influence at work, what must a Christian put off and put on?
 - a) Eph. 4:17-32 _____

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