



The Christian in the Workplace

12 Lessons

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Lesson One

"When We Face Wrong Living"

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

This series of lessons is to find the proper attitudes, words, and actions that the Christian should have or express 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 _____

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

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 _____

Lesson Two

*"When Bad Attitudes are Shown
Toward Us"*

Matthew 5:10-12

Christians can expect to be resented at times by non-Christians—that is just the way things will work (2 Timothy 3:12). We can certainly expect to be persecuted because of what we believe and the way we are suppose to live. It is not a question of "if," but of "when!" We need to be prepared for such, spiritually! Jesus tried to warn His disciples ahead of time to expect such (Matthew 24:9-10). The inspired letters are also given to help prepare us for such in our lives (1 Pet. 2:19-23). The most logically place for this to take place is at our job places.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is there anything that we can do to avoid resentment or even persecution?

a) 1 Pet. 2:17 _____

b) Rom. 13:1-7 _____

2. 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 _____

3. How are we to respond to persecution?

a) Matt. 5:10-12 _____

b) 1 Pet. 2:19-20 _____

c) 1 Pet. 2:23 _____

d) 1 Pet. 3:9 _____

e) 1 Pet. 3:10-12 _____

f) 1 Pet. 3:14 _____

g) 1 Pet. 3:17-18 _____

h) 1 Pet. 4:4-5 _____

i) 1 Pet. 4:12-14 _____

j) 1 Pet. 4:15-16 _____

k) 1 Pet. 4:19 _____

4. 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 Three

*"When There is Murmuring, Gossip,
and Complaining Among Workers"*

Philippians 2:12-16

One of the hardest things for a company to deal with is the discontent of its workforce. Indications of unhappiness with the work they are doing are shown by murmuring, complaining, and gossip. Unless these things are checked, dire consequences lay ahead for all concerned. Certainly, the Christian should not get caught up in such things. Inspiration commands us not to murmur or complain (1 Cor. 10:10). Complaining is not something new by any stretch of the imagination. After God punished Cain, he complained about his punishment being too great to bear (Gen. 4:13-15).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What will help the Christian to shine as a light in the world in which he lives and works? (Phil. 2:14-16) _____

2. Who is a prime example of murmuring in the Old Testament? (Exo. 15:24; 16:2, 7; Num. 14:2; 16:41) _____

3. What did God call those who murmured?

a) Num. 14:27 _____

b) Matt. 11:1-11, 15 _____

c) Jude 14-16

4. What was the first "problem" in the early church (Acts 6:1) _____

5. What are some reasons why people will murmur or complain? _____

6. What are some reasons why people will gossip? _____

7. What will cease when there is no gossip, talebearer, or whisperer? (Prov. 26:20) _____

8. What does a gossip or a talebearer do?

a) Prov. 11:13 _____

b) Prov. 20:19 _____

9. What are the words of a talebearer compared to?

a) Prov. 26:22 _____

b) Prov. 12:18 _____

10. Why do people engage in Gossip and why is it such a problem? _____

11. What should come from the lips of the wise?

a) Prov. 10:19-21 _____

b) Prov. 15:1-2 _____

c) Prov. 15:23 _____

d) Prov. 16:24 _____

e) Prov. 17:28 _____

12. What can a foolish person do with their mouth? (Prov. 14:1; 16:28) _____

Lesson Four

*"Does it Matter How a Christian
Makes His 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 do our giving 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) _____

Lesson Five

*"Keeping 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 needed 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

*"How do We Deal With the
Love of Money?"*
1 Timothy 6:10-12

Money or having a lot of money is not necessarily evil! However, seeking to have a lot of money or possessing a lot of money has its challenges and "DANGERS!" One of the main reasons why we work is to make money. We will even get two jobs to make more money. When is making money a risk or a danger? When does our attitude towards money or making money become evil or wrong? The Christian certainly needs to be aware of the answers to these and other questions that has to do with our jobs.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are some warnings in Scripture about money?

- a) Luke 12:15-21 _____
- b) Luke 16:19-31 _____
- c) Matt. 19:24 _____
- d) 1 Tim. 6:9-10 _____
- e) 1 Tim. 6:17-19 _____
- f) Matt. 16:26 _____
- g) 1 Cor. 5:9-11 _____

2. How would you define covetousness? (Col. 3:5) _____

3. How can I know that I am covetous?

- a) Eph. 4:28; 1 Cor. 5:11 _____
- b) Col. 3:5; Matt. 6:24 _____
- c) Matt. 6:21 _____

d) Matt. 16:26 _____

e) 1 John 3:17 _____

4. Can it be truthfully said of a man who works all the time that he is covetous? _____

5. What can the abundance of money tend to breed in us? (Isa. 1:2-3) _____

6. Can money "buy" happiness? (Luke 12:15) _____

7. Can sudden wealth change one's outlook? (1 Tim. 6:17) _____

8. What can help a Christian to keep a proper outlook about money and his job? _____

9. When does money become our master? (Matt. 6:24) _____

Lesson Seven

*"How do We Deal with a Dissatisfied
or 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 you 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 _____

f) Eph. 6:5-8 _____

g) 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? _____

Lesson Eight

"The Question of Working Mothers"

Titus 2:1-5

This is, unfortunately, a problem that many mothers with a baby and/or small children have had to wrestle with! When we talk about "working mothers," we have reference to working outside the home—obviously! Often, it is not a question of if she should work outside the home, but that she has to in order for her family to survive. This is basically true of widowed, divorced, or single mothers. Combined with the necessity of "working mothers" is the disintegration of the morals of our nation and the breakdown of the home and its proper function. We believe that unless this trend is reversed, there is little hope for our nation in the future. But to the question: *"Should mothers with babes or small children work outside the home, if they don't have to?"*

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

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

2. What are some disadvantages for mothers working outside the home? _____

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

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

5. Is it wrong (sinful) for a woman to work outside the home? _____

6. What admonition does inspiration give to younger widows? (1 Tim. 5:14) _____

7. What are some dangers that a "working mother" will face in the workplace? _____

8. Is the "worthy woman" or Proverbs 31 pictured as a "working mother"—as one who works outside the home?

Lesson Nine

*"How do We Balance 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 and 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.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

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? _____

Lesson Ten

"Owning My Own Business"

Matthew 4:17-22

With the multiplying of people and the changes that come with such, our society has changed quite a bit from what it was 100 years ago. The bigger the cities, the more dependent individuals have become upon others. While many still own their own businesses; yet, it is obvious also, that more and more of us have to work for others rather than in our own business. There is somewhat of a strong swing back by younger people to owning their own businesses. Many are succeeding well, while others are failing. It may be good for us to do some evaluating of the pros and cons of owning one's own business in this series of study.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Can you see an advantage in the following people owning their own business?

a) Aquila & Pricilla (1 Cor. 18:1-5) _____

b) Peter, Andrew, James, & John (Matt. 4:17-22) _____

c) Lydia (Acts 16:11-15) _____

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

3. What lesson can we learn from the "rich young ruler" about owning one's own business?
(Luke 18:18-30)

4. What are some advantages of owning your own business?

5. What are some disadvantages of owning your own business?

6. Do you personally know of success stories? _____

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

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

Lesson Eleven

"Light in a World of 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 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 _____

b) Col. 3:5-14

5. What does it mean for the Christian to "come out from among them and be separate?" (2 Cor. 6:14-18)

6. Why is being in the "world" called darkness? (Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-20; 1 John 1:6-7)

Lesson Twelve

"Providing for One's Own"

1 Timothy 5:1-8

Work is intended by God to be a blessing for man—it provides for his needs and keeps him occupied (Eccl. 3:9-10). The Old saying, "An idle mind is the devil's workshop," is certainly true. The writer of Ecclesiastes makes it clear that we should enjoy our work (3:12-13, 32; 5:18-20). But one of the things about "work" that needs to be stressed –the responsibility of providing for one's own (1 Tim. 5:8). It shows our concern for our family and loved ones. It also relieves society of an additional burden it has to bear if I fail my family.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

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

2. Why did Jesus condemn the Religious Leaders in regards to honoring their parents? (Matt. 15:1-9)

3. In the Old Testament, what did God do to be sure widows and orphans were cared for? (Deut. 14:28-29; 24:17)

4. What did Eliphaz falsely accuse Job of doing? (Job 22:9)_____

5. What two things does James say shows a person has pure religion? (Jas. 1:27)_____

6. What needs to be done with a person who will not work? (2 Thess. 3:10, 14-15)_____

7. 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 _____

8. What does the wise man say about having little and much?

- a) Prov. 15:16 _____
- b) Prov. 15:17 _____
- c) Prov. 16:8 _____
- d) Prov. 16:16 _____
- e) Prov. 16:19 _____

9. 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 _____

