

It is what it is?

Week of October 18

How are you enjoying your work these days—do you hate your job, or do you love what you do? Work was designed by God to be a good thing, not a bad thing or necessary evil. In the beginning man was given the job of “governing” the earth God created, and the Lord told Adam specifically “to tend and watch over” the beautiful Garden of Eden (see Genesis 1:28, 2:15). God shared the workload with Adam and gave him the task of naming each animal. Adam “gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals” (Genesis 2:20a).

The Lord’s plan for you and me to find fulfillment on-the-job has been a crucial component of God’s masterful Creation – even before sin ever entered the picture. Since most of our waking hours is spent working, and since much of our identity is borne out of our occupation, our jobs should be a place of enjoyment. Hopefully, you don’t hate your job, but if you do there are “tools” God wants to give you to carry in your tool belt.

Tools like honesty, integrity, solid work ethic, becoming a team player—are tools that will help you achieve personal fulfillment on-the-job. You can live into your full potential if you are willing to become a person of substance and invest in others. You can actually help make your work environment a more positive place by praying for fellow-employees, becoming an encourager, and generously pouring into those around your cubicle. In other words, your workplace is also a mission field.

Read Acts 18:1-6

After arriving in Corinth, the apostle Paul teamed up with Aquila and Priscilla because they had work in common—they were tentmakers by trade.

1. How has common work experience opened the door for you to make lasting friendships?

Who did Paul take with him when he left Corinth? (see Acts 18:18)

Paul took Aquila and Priscilla with him to Ephesus. Because this godly couple was obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit, not only were they happy to open their home to host a fellowship of believers, they were available to help disciple a man from Alexandria named Apollos, well-versed in Scripture, who became an effective evangelist in the early church (Acts 18:24-28). Even after Paul had left Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus, they stayed in contact (see 1 Corinthians 16:3, 2 Timothy 4:19).

2. What additional information do you learn about Priscilla and Aquila according to Romans 16:3-5?

In the course of daily work, not only did this couple make a lasting bond of friendship with the apostle Paul, they became fellow stakeholders in the faith—his “co-workers in the ministry of Jesus Christ.”

Why is it important to take Christ with us into the workplace?

3. Consider the following list of employers/employees DO’s and DON’Ts—

EMPLOYERS

Don’t treat your employees like a hireling

Invest in your employees

Don’t lower your standards

Grow your employees

Don’t be unpredictable

Do pray for your team

EMPLOYEES

Don’t be a hireling

Invest in your boss and company

Raise your standards

Grow as a leader and grow in your field

Be predictable

Pray for you boss and company

Which of these DO’s and/or DON’Ts stand out for you and why?
(narrow it down to one and share briefly from personal experience)

4. The Bible says: “Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ” (Colossians 3:23-24). Think of a time you found this principle to be true. How did focusing on “doing your job as unto the Lord” help you keep a positive attitude in a difficult situation?

How have you seen the Lord come through for you in the midst of a stressful atmosphere at work?

Throughout Scripture are examples of men and women remaining true in the face of severe challenges. It is possible to do our job well, give glory to God, and be an effective witness even when our work environment stinks. If you love your job, thank the Lord for it! If not, ask the Lord to reveal what He wants you to learn and how you can remain faithful. The apostle Paul said: "But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God... I have never coveted anyone's silver of gold or fine clothes. You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me. And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard" (Acts 20:24, 33-35a).

4. When have you worked a job – knowing you would not be there long – but looking back you see how undeniably the Lord used that place of employment to teach you valuable lessons?

Looking back, how did this job help to shape you for future employment?

In closing, take some quiet time of reflection and thank God for how He really is "working all things together for your good and His glory!" Praise Him for it and recommit yourself to be faithful where you are today.



Text: Acts 18:1-6

Employer Do's and Don'ts

Employee Do's and Don'ts

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Don't treat your employees like _____. | Don't be a _____ |
| 2) _____ in your employees. | _____ in your boss & company |
| 3) Don't lower your _____. | Raise your _____—
go beyond what's _____. |
| 4) _____ your employees. | _____ as a leader & in your field. |
| 5) Don't be _____. | Be _____. |
| 6) Do _____ for your _____. | _____ for your _____ & Company. |

The Plain Truth:

Do _____ you do as you are _____ it for _____.

One Year Bible Reading

- Oct. 18: Jeremiah 31:27-32:44, 1 Timothy 3:1-16, Psalm 88:1-18, Prov. 25:20-22
 Oct. 19: Jeremiah 33:1-34:22, 1 Timothy 4:1-16, Psalm 89:1-13, Proverbs 25:23-24
 Oct. 20: Jeremiah 35:1-36:32, 1 Timothy 5:1-25, Psalm 89:14-37, Prov. 25:25-27
 Oct. 21: Jeremiah 37:1-38:28, 1 Timothy 6:1-21, Psalm 89:38-52, Proverbs 25:28
 Oct. 22: Jeremiah 39:1-41:18, 2 Timothy 1:1-18, Psalm 90:1-91:16, Prov. 26:1-2
 Oct. 23: Jeremiah 42:1-44:23, 2 Timothy 2:1-21, Psalm 92:1-93:5, Proverbs 26:3-5
 Oct. 24: Jeremiah 44:24-47:7, 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17, Psalm 94:1-23, Prov. 26:6-8