

“Honoring Christ at Work”
“Ephesians” — Part 18
Ephesians 6:5-9

The overarching Christian life principle:

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21

We were never meant to live the Christian life alone, but in community, bearing one another’s burdens, encouraging one another, and looking out for one another.

1. The Sincerity Principle

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Ephesians 6:5

All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

Proverbs 16:2-3

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

2. The Cat and Mouse Principle

Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.

Ephesians 6:6

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

Colossians 3:22

“Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 6:1

On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.

1 Thessalonians 2:4

3. The Eternal Reward Principle

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

Ephesians 6:7-8

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23-24

***“All vocations are intended by God to
Manifest His love in the world.”***

Thomas Merton

4. The Brother Principle

...no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother...

Philemon 16

***“Caesar sought to change men by changing institutions.
Jesus changed institutions
by changing men.”***

Will Durant—Historian

2. The Hebrew National Principle

And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

Ephesians 6:9

“We answer to a higher authority!”

Hebrew National Hot Dogs Slogan

We are called to a different kind of leadership.

..."You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:25-28

Application questions:

- Do you see your work as a calling?
- How might connecting your Sunday faith to Monday work change the way you view work?
- How might you do your work as a God-honoring act of worship?