

How to Honor Christ in the Workplace

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Most of us work under an employer, supervisor, or authority figure who oversees our responsibilities. Our daily interactions with them and our behavior on the job serve as a testimony of our faith.

In Titus 2:9-10, Paul addresses bondservants (workers in his cultural context), urging them to act in a way that brings honor to God: *"Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior."*

While this passage originally spoke to slaves in the Roman world, the principles Paul outlines are still relevant for modern employees. Our conduct in the workplace can either enhance or diminish the credibility of the gospel. Whether we like it or not, our boss is often the one person who consistently observes our character in action. Through our work ethic and attitude, we either make the message of Christ attractive or repel others from it.

Paul provides three specific ways that Christians can influence their employer and coworkers in a Christ honoring way:

1. Be Obedient – Submit to Authority: Paul instructs workers to "be subject to their own masters in everything." In today's terms, this means recognizing and respecting the authority structure at work. Employees should follow instructions, complete assigned tasks diligently, and respect leadership.

Why this matters:

- It demonstrates humility and integrity.
- It fosters a healthy work environment.
- It reflects a heart that is ultimately obedient to God (Colossians 3:23).

When we willingly submit to our employer's authority (unless asked to do something unethical), we showcase a Christ-like attitude. Instead of resisting direction or challenging authority at every turn, we should aim to be cooperative and reliable workers.

2. Be Pleasant – Avoid Complaining and Arguing: Paul also calls workers to be "well-pleasing" and "not argumentative." An employee who constantly complains, resists change, or stirs up workplace drama quickly earns a poor reputation. No one enjoys working with someone who turns every issue into a battle.

Why this matters:

- It creates a positive work culture.
- It makes us stand out as peacemakers (Philippians 2:14-15).
- It reflects a heart of gratitude rather than entitlement.

Instead of grumbling about assignments, salaries, or coworkers, we should work with joy and grace. A pleasant demeanor not only makes work more enjoyable but also serves as a witness to the transforming power of Christ in our lives.

3. Be Honest – Maintain Integrity in All Things: Paul warns against "pilfering" (stealing) and instead calls for "showing all good faith." While outright theft may seem like an extreme case, dishonesty in the workplace takes many subtle forms:

- Padding hours on a timesheet.

- Taking home office supplies.
- Wasting time instead of working diligently.
- Misreporting expenses.

Why this matters:

- Employers often know when employees are dishonest, even if they can't prove it.
- A reputation for honesty builds trust and respect.
- It aligns with biblical principles of integrity (Proverbs 11:3).

We should be known for our reliability and trustworthiness. Honesty in small matters reflects faithfulness in greater ones (Luke 16:10). When we handle workplace resources, time, and responsibilities with integrity, we bring honor to God.

Paul's ultimate goal in these instructions is "so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior." (Titus 2:10). The word adorn means to make something beautiful or attractive, like jewelry enhances an outfit. Our actions at work should make the gospel appealing to those around us.

Employers and coworkers may already have some knowledge of Christianity, but when they see a believer working with obedience, positivity, and integrity, they get a living demonstration of the gospel's power.

As Christians, our workplace is one of the greatest mission fields available to us. Every interaction with our employer, coworkers, and customers is an opportunity to reflect Christ. Instead of just impressing the boss with our skills, let's strive to impress them with our character, in a way that truly matters.

Practical Next Steps:

- Evaluate: Are you submitting to authority with a willing heart?
- Adjust: Are you maintaining a positive attitude instead of complaining?
- Commit: Are you demonstrating honesty in all aspects of your job?

By applying these principles, we can ensure that our work life glorifies God and serves as a testimony of His grace.