

Living in Grace

Work as Worship – Ephesians 6:5–9

Wait... Slavery?

*"Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ... **Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one of you.**"*

Ephesians 6:5–8

We are all slaves of _____... Pick your _____ carefully.

Workers

Your _____ is *what* you're paid to do.

Your _____ is *why* God placed you there to do it.

Work *through* Christ.

Work *like* Christ.

Work *for* Christ.



Ultimately, work isn't to build your _____ or your _____ but to build God's _____.

Leaders

"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

Lead *through* Christ.

Lead *like* Christ.

Lead *for* Christ.

**Work is a laboratory for us to live, love,
and lead like Jesus.**

Memory Verse

"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people."

Ephesians 6:7

Living in Grace: Work as Worship

Questions based on sermon from November 5, 2023

Getting to Know Me

1. When was the last time you had a fulfilling day at work (or in your retirement)? What made that day special?
2. In your mind, what makes a good boss? What do you think makes a good employee?

Digging Deeper

3. What new insight or challenge did you take away from Pastor Phil's message this past Sunday?
4. What is your current occupation or work context?
5. Read Ephesians 6:5-9. How would you define serving *wholeheartedly* (v.7) as it relates to your tasks and attitude at work? What would *serving wholeheartedly as if you were serving Jesus* look like in your daily life?
6. What do you think of the statement, "We are all slaves to something"? Who or what drives your thoughts and behaviors? What has mastered you?
7. Read 1 Peter 2:15-18.
 - Here we are called "slaves of God." What kind of master is Jesus?
 - These are some tough verses, but how does it impact your understanding to realize that Peter (the author) knew persecution and death at the hands of an earthly authority?

8. Read Romans 1:1 (*servant* or *slave* are the same word in Greek), 2 Corinthians 4:5, Philippians 2:7, Ephesians 5:1, and Ephesians 6:9. How do these verses elevate the role of servant in God's eyes? What does this say about God's heart for the lowly?
9. Why do you think it is so difficult to live out our faith at work? How do you think your work environment or relationships would be impacted if you considered your work as a form of worship of God?
10. In what areas have you divided your life between sacred and secular? Does your submission to God change when you are in 'secular' realms versus 'sacred' settings?
11. Read Romans 12:1-2. How can we practically worship God through our relationships, attitudes, and tasks at work?
12. How does our theme verse, Ephesians 5:21, relate to the master/slave, employee/employer... relationship?

Where Do I Go from Here?

13. You may not be able to shift jobs, but what would happen to your attitude, fulfillment, and joy at work if you shifted 'masters' and viewed God as your ultimate boss?
14. On your own, watch Right Now Media's "Work as Worship" by Nona Jones. Use the QR Code in the Notes for free access.

Prayer: Pray for your work and co-workers. Ask God to use you to draw those you work with closer to Him. Ask God to help you view all of life as your spiritual act of worship to Him.

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