



SUMMER STUDY SERIES

Cutting Through the Darkness: Being Christ's Witness When It's Hard

Being a Witness in the Workplace

July 23, 2023

Evening Preparation

- Sound check for a headpiece, 4 handhelds, & floor monitor.
- Table (with tablecloth) & 3 chairs on stage.

➤ *Matthew 5:14-16*

As the light of Christ, Christians are unaffected by the darkness but have the power to affect darkness. Therefore, we have the incredible ability to help others who are lost in the darkness. When we do our job, we help others find their way through. If we don't, then they are lost in the darkness. This is no truer than with the opportunity we have every day in the workplace.

As Christians, we are taught:

- *Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)* – 18 *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*
- *Acts 1:8 (NKJV)* – *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

We know these two passages as the Great Commission. We sometimes take them to the extreme, and we become like a bull in a China shop with the gospel. Our intentions are good, however, we should make sure our actions are in alignment with our words of our witness in the workplace. Sometimes in the workplace, it may be difficult for others to hear our words, when our actions don't represent our Lord's message.

We Need to be Ambassadors/Representatives

- ***2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV) – Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.***

- ***Colossians 3:23-24 (NKJV) – And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.***

For example:

- We should be on time. (at least 15 mins early)
- We should not steal time or resources.
- We should provide excellent service.
- We should adhere to the standard of the company.
- We should lead not follow the crowd.

When we have set an example for others, then we will have a platform to communicate the life changing message of the gospel. So, in the workplace co-workers are watching more than hearing our witness.

- ***1 Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV) – Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.***

Sometimes as believers, we feel like the company/organizations we are employed by should function as the body of Christ. Unfortunately, we forget that we didn't function as Christ, nor were we interested in things of Christ.

- ***Ephesians 2:11-13 (NKJV) – Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at the time you were without Christ, being aliens and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.***

We Need to Recognize the Company's Goal

- We project/push our desires and beliefs in the workplace, believing the company should embrace our desires and belief and change the whole company.
- We decided to work for the company. The company is concern with accomplishing the goal that they have, not concern with your desires and beliefs.
- We should give honor and respect to the company. This way we are demonstrating or representing the values of Christlikeness in order to have a platform to witness.

We Need to Witness by our Actions

- In their excellent book [*Your Work Matters to God*](#), Douglas Sherman and William Hendricks write:

The key to bringing the culture and the church back together, to renewing the workplace and reforming the church—may well be a movement of people who are known for their hard work, for the excellence of their effort, for their honesty and unswerving integrity, for their concern for the rights and welfare of people, for the quality of the goods and services produced, for their leadership among coworkers—in short, for their Christ-likeness on and off the job. What could an army of such workers accomplish?

Doing excellent work with a good attitude is the right thing to do, and it is an excellent way to let our light shine on a hill so others may see it.

- There are six responsibilities of godly employees found in the story of Daniel in the lion's den. In the sixth chapter of Daniel, Darius, the king of Babylon, appointed 120 administrators to govern the government, and three people—one of whom was Daniel—to supervise the administrators. Because of Daniel's outstanding service, King Darius decided to promote Daniel to govern the entire kingdom. Daniel's jealous peers looked for a way to disqualify him but could find no basis for accusation. Knowing Daniel's devotion to God, they asked King Darius to enact a law requiring everyone to worship only the king or die in the lion's den. Daniel refused to stop worshipping God, and Darius reluctantly threw him to lions. When God rescued Daniel by sending an angel to shut the lions' mouths, the thankful king ordered all his subjects to honor the God of Daniel.
- Daniel modeled the six characteristics of godly employees:
 - **Honesty**--- (Daniel 6:4) tells us that Daniel's fellow employees could find no dishonesty in him, and there was no "ground for complaint" in his work.
 - **Faithfulness**--- (Daniel 6:4) says, "He was faithful." Godly employees strive for the goal of being faithful and excellent in work.
 - **Prayerfulness**--- (Daniel 6:10) When Daniel knew that the document had been signed (restricting worship to the king alone). "He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously."
 - **Loyalty**--- (Daniel 6:21) after the king had been tricked in sentencing Daniel to the lion's den. Daniel's reaction was to honor his employer regardless of the circumstances. "Then Daniel said to the king, 'O king, live forever!'" Godly employees always honor their superiors.

(1 Peter 2:18) Servants [employees] be subject to your masters [employers] with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

One way we honor employers is by refusing to gossip behind their backs, regardless of their weaknesses.

- **Honor Fellow Employees**---People may damage your reputation or attempt to have you fired from your job to secure a promotion over you. Not only did they do that to Daniel, they even tried to murder him. Despite this, there is no evidence that he did anything but honor his fellow employees.

➤ ***(Proverbs 30:10) Do not slander a servant [employee] to his master [employer], lest he curse you.***

Godly employees avoid office politics and manipulation to secure a promotion. You can be content in your job as you focus on being faithful, honoring superiors and encouraging other employees. Having done this, you can rest, knowing that God will promote you, if and when He chooses.

➤ ***(Psalm 75:6-7) “For exaltation comes neither from the east nor the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge; He puts down one and exalts another.”***

Verbalize Faith--- King Darius would never have known about God if Daniel had not communicated his faith at the appropriate moments while at work. (Daniel 6:20) “The king declared to Daniel, ‘O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lion?’” Daniel’s faithfulness and confidence in God influenced King Darius. (Daniel 6:26) “I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, enduring forever.”

Daniel influenced his employer to believe in the only true God. You have the same opportunity in your God-given sphere of work.

➤ ***1 Corinthians 10:31(NKJV) – Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.***