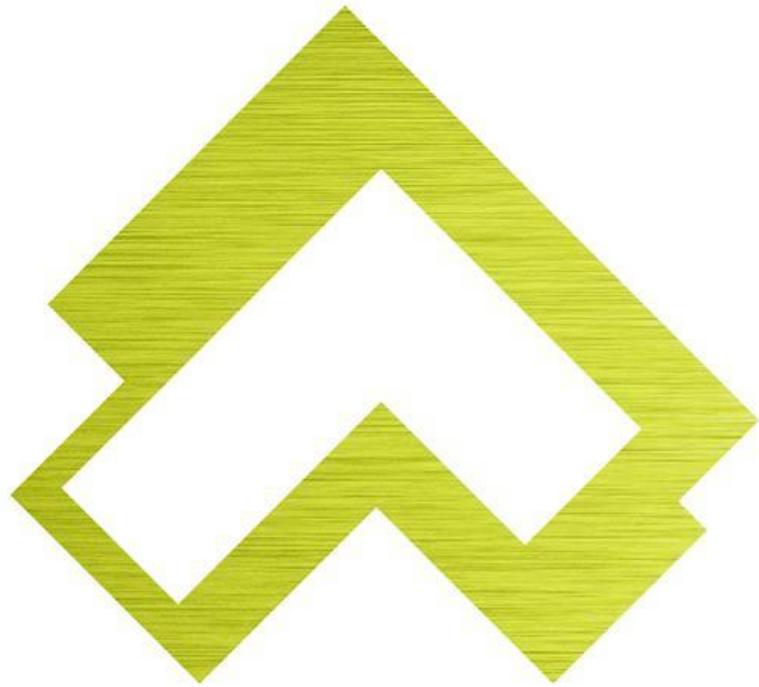


The Journey of Faith

Session 14



THE
SUMMIT
CHURCH

The Work Field

Teaching Chart

SESSION 14: THE WORK FIELD

YOUR BIGGEST MISSION FIELD

“Christians in the marketplace today are able to gain access more easily to strategic, unreached places. Globalization, revolutions in technology, and urbanization have given the business community nearly universal access.” – J.D. Greear

Vocation - Workplace, Business Building, Networking	Learning - School, College, Hobbies
Outside your family, where do you have personal interactions?	
Relationships – Neighborhood, Friends	Causes/Activism – Support Groups, Common Interests

Purposes of Being in the Work Field

- Provide for the Needs of Your Family (1 Timothy 5:8)
- Support Your Local Church (Galatians 6:10)
- Develop Relationships for Spreading the Gospel (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Actions Toward Those Above You

- Respect Authority (Titus 2:-9-10)
- Work Hard No Matter Who is Present (Colossians 3:22)
- Help Your Others Succeed (Romans 12:11)
- Finish What You Start (Proverbs 18:9)
- Mind Your Business (1 Thessalonians 4:11)

Actions Toward Those Under You

- Show consistency in treating everyone alike (Ephesians 6:9)
- Be considerate of how external circumstances can affect work performance (Philippians 2:4)

Lesson

Overview: Believe it or not, the Bible has much to say about how you should conduct yourself at your job. Whether you are a present/future employer or employee, you should develop the right attitudes in the work field so that you can be an obedient Christian at home and on the job.

Purpose: To assist employer/employees in having proper attitudes in the work field

Verses: (Ephesians 6:5) Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ,
 (Ephesians 6:9) Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

- I. What is the job of every Christian?
 - A. Every Christian is ultimately a servant of God.
 - B. Every Christian is a part of the “body of Christ” and is expected to use his or her talents and abilities for God.
(1 Corinthians 12:12)
 - C. You must be involved in service for God, even when you are on the job.
(1 Peter 3:15)

- II. What is the purpose of having a job?
 - A. Your job allows you to provide for the needs of your family (first priority).
(1 Timothy 5:8)
 - B. Your job allows you to financially support your local church (second priority).
(Galatians 6:10)
 - C. Your job allows you to establish relationships and minister to unbelievers (third priority).
(2 Corinthians 5:20)
 1. The work field is probably where you come in contact with the greatest number of lost people.
 2. You may be the only Christian that some of your employer/employees know; therefore, you must live a consistent Christian life.

- III. What kind of attitude should I have toward my employer?
 - A. Respect authority even when you do not agree with a decision that is made.
(Titus 2:9-10)
 1. The only time to disobey authority is when their decision is contrary to biblical guidelines.
 - a. Do not lie, steal, or cheat for your employer.
 - b. Refuse to be placed in compromising situations and participate in sinful activities with your company.
 2. When you choose to disobey authority because of a conflict with biblical guidelines be humble and respectful instead of prideful.
 - B. Work hard even when your boss is not around.
(Colossians 3:22)
 1. Be careful about using company time to share Christ with others.
 2. Use the workplace to establish relationships that will result in friendships outside the workplace (this will give you a chance to share Christ).
 - C. Do your best to help your company succeed and make your employer look good.
(Romans 12:11)
 - D. Always finish a project.
(Proverbs 18:9)
 - E. Do not let someone else’s laziness affect your work – mind your own business.
(1 Thessalonians 4:11)

- IV. What kind of attitude should I have toward my employees?
- A. Be consistent treating every employee alike.
(Ephesians 6:9)
 - 1. Honor and respect your employees.
 - 2. Never abuse your power.
 - B. Be considerate of their needs.
(Philippians 2:4)
 - C. Be a servant even though you are the boss.
- V. What do I do if my job interferes with my spiritual life?
- A. Try to balance between work and ministry.
 - 1. There will be times when you cannot be present for a church function.
 - 2. However, you must arrange your priorities so that you can fulfill your responsibilities to God, family, and church.
 - B. Control your job instead of allowing your job to control you.
 - 1. Be careful about committing to more than you know you can handle.
 - 2. Learn to say “no.”
- VI. How do I respond to co-workers who persecute me for being a Christian?
- A. Expect others to be sarcastic and make fun of your being a Christian.
(2 Timothy 3:12)
 - 1. Do not apologize for the stand that you take.
 - 2. However, do not have an “I’m better than you are” attitude.
 - B. Allow God to handle the situation in His time.
(1 Peter 2:20)

Review

1. What is the real job of every Christian?
2. Name the three purposes of your job?
3. Why is the work field an important part of your ministry?

4. When is it permissible to disobey your employer?
5. Briefly explain what kinds of attitudes you should have toward your employer/employee.
6. Do not let someone else's _____ affect your work – mind your own _____.
7. Explain the importance of a balance between work and spiritual life.
8. Control your _____ instead of allowing your job to _____ you.
9. List two ways to respond to co-workers who persecute you.
10. Briefly describe the purpose of this lesson.

False Teachings

Some churches, organizations, or groups are promoting the following false teachings:

- A job is only important for financial purposes.
- You must never miss a church function because you are working.
- You should use company time to “sit down and witness to co-workers.”