

SPIRIT-FILLED LABOR RELATIONS

Ephesians 6:5-9

8/15/10

Our Christian faith should impact every thing we do in life.

As Christians we should live differently.

Because of the natural consequences of a life of disobedience

Because God promises rewards in heaven for those who are faithful

Because we are new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Out of gratitude and appreciation for what God has done for us

Because the Holy Spirit of God dwells in us

The Spirit-filled life is not some personal experience we have.

It does not stop with our private relationship with God.

It is not just a certain way we should act around church and one another.

A humble submission and conscious dependents upon the Holy Spirit impacts every area of life.

Galatians 5:22-25 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

The context of our passage talks about the results of the filling of the Holy Spirit in the lives of genuine Christians. cf 5:18, 21

Being filled with the Holy Spirit should change how we live in our marriages, families, and at work.

This morning we will see how a Spirit-filled Christian should act in the work place.

Honesty, integrity, and ethics are missing from most work places in our day.

The biggest source of theft for the majority of businesses is employee theft.

One convenience store manager said, "I find it hard to find an honest employee."

Many CEOs and business executives are just as corrupt.

Several prominent banks and Wall Street stock brokerage companies are under investigation.

They are getting rich at the expense of their stockholders.

We, as Christians, should be different.

The filling of the Holy Spirit should make a difference in how you and I go about our daily lives at work.

1. To The Christian Employee Ephesians 6:5-8

a. **Be obedient to those over you. 5a**

slaves

The Bible does not encourage slavery but it does recognize the reality that we must learn to live godly lives in an ungodly world.

The principles found here in Ephesians 6 not only apply to 1st century slavery, but to the 21st century workplace as well.

be obedient- submit to the authority of those over you

Follow your boss's directions whether like them or not.

This applies to supervisors, managers, and foremen also.

Don't be argumentative

Don't do things your own way just because you think it is better.

Don't take slipshod shortcuts

Don't be lazy or a goof-off

The Bible tells us to follow our bosses' instructions unless they ask us to do something that is dishonest, illegal, or against God's clear instructions.

You are never to compromise your Biblical convictions on the job.

b. Show respect. 5b

With fear and trembling

Show respect even if your boss does not act in a respectable manner.

Speak respectfully to him and talk respectfully about him.

Don't be a gripper, complainer, gossip, or malcontent.

Recognize that God will hold you accountable

Don't pilfer, steal, or embezzle.

Don't inflated time sheets or doctor expense accounts.

Don't take office supplies or make unauthorized phone calls.

c. Maintain pure motives. 5c-7

Negative motives

Not by way of eyeservice v. 6

Don't work only when the boss is looking

Don't do it to simply impress the boss so that you might get a raise or promotion.

Not as men-pleasers v. 6

It's not about making an impression.

Don't do things just to please people

Not to men v. 7

Positive motives

In the sincerity of your heart v. 5

As to Christ v. 5

From the heart v. 6

With good will v. 7

As to the Lord v. 7

An executive secretary said, "When I began to envision Jesus standing behind my boss, my work changed. I had to do my very best. Even the menial task of serving coffee became a joy, and my attitude changed from arrogance to respect."

Your work is first and foremost for the Lord.

d. Recognize that God will reward you if you do a godly job. v. 8

God sees how you do your job as spiritually significant.

God rewards the faithful, godly employee.

The good we do is not always appreciated nor always rewarded in this life.

But Jesus assures us that even a cup of cold water does not go unrewarded in the world that is to come.

2. To The Christian Employer Ephesians 6:9

a. Do the same.

Show your employees respect, with sincerity and good will

b. Give up threatening.

Clarence Francis, who was chairman of the board of General Foods Corporation, said: "You can buy a man's time; you can buy a man's physical presence at a given place; you can even buy a measured number of skilled muscular motions per hour or day. But you cannot buy

enthusiasm; you cannot buy initiative; you cannot buy loyalty; you cannot buy devotion of hearts, minds and souls. You have to earn these things."

c. Know that there is no partiality with God.

God is their Master and as well as yours.

He is not partial or impressed with your title or position.

He does not play favorites.

Colossians 4:1 Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

God will repay you in accordance with how you treat your employees.

James 5:4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, *and* which has been withheld by you, cries out *against you*; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

Deuteronomy 24:14-15 "You shall not oppress a hired servant *who is* poor and needy, whether *he is* one of your countrymen or one of your aliens who is in your land in your towns. 15 "You shall give him his wages on his day before the sun sets, for he is poor and sets his heart on it; so that *he will not cry against you to the LORD and it become sin in you.*

3. The Big Idea: Your job is a spiritual matter.

a. Salvation is by faith and not by works. Ephesians 2:1-10

b. Godliness in the workplace requires the filling of the Spirit. Cf 5:18, 21; Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23, 25

It is the filling of the Holy Spirit changes and empowers us.

c. Godliness in the workplace makes a difference.

The most important and fertile field for most of you to be a witness for Christ is the place where you work.

Your co-workers see whether you are patient or impatient, honest or dishonest, caring or uncaring, selfish or unselfish, clean or vulgar in your talk.

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Philippians 2:14-15 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

Live your life at work in a way that honors God.

Live at work in a way that silences our critics.

Live at work in a way attracts people to our Savior.

**d. Godliness in the workplace will be rewarded by God.
Ephesians 6:7-8**