Sermon Notes for April 19, 2015

Honoring Christ in Our Work

Ephesians 6:5-9

Introduction

How do we honor Christ in our work?

Work is more than just earning a living. It is a calling from God.

“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17

When we do our work well for the Lord, it is an act of worship.

Ok, but how does this passage that talks about slaves and masters apply to me?

Slavery in the NT era was more like indentured servanthood.

The principles that are taught in this passage apply to all working relationships.

For most of us, the primary way that we are going to influence the world around us is through our family and our work.

I. The Duty of Employees. Ephesians 6:5-8

What does an employee owe to an employer?

- Obedience – Do what you were hired to do to the best of your ability.
- Respect (fear) – Show respect to your boss or manager.
- Sincerity – Be honest and generous. Do even more than you are asked when you have the opportunity.
- Loyalty – Work hard at all times, not just when they are watching.
- Wholehearted – Be the best employee you can be.

Would you hire someone with those characteristics?

Do you see your work as a calling from God?

Do you see it as a place where you can be a witness for Christ?

II. The Duty of Employers. Ephesians 6:9

Treat your employees in the same way.
• Respect – They are made in the image of God.
• Sincerity – Be honest and generous.
• Loyalty – Make your workplace a great place to work.
• Wholehearted – Be concerned about their needs.

Treat your employees the way you would want to be treated. (The Golden Rule – Luke 6:31)

Treat your employees the way you would treat Jesus Christ.

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

Remember that you have the same master in heaven.

The motivation for both Christian employees and employers is the final judgment.

God will reward everyone for the good they have done.

Can you imagine what it would look like if every employer had that perspective?

Conclusion

How can we honor Christ in our work?

• By seeing our work as a vocation – a calling from God.
• By understanding that the work we do contributes to making our community (world) a better place to live. Common Grace for the Common Good.
• By treating our boss or our employees like we would want to be treated.
• By being fair, honest, loyal and hardworking.
• By doing everything for Jesus.