
WORKING FOR THE GLORY OF CHRIST

(Ephesians 6:5-9)

The Baptist minister and civil rights movement leader Martin Luther King Jr. once said, *"If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures. Sweep streets like Beethoven composed music. Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say: 'Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well.'"* That is the kind of perspective you and I need to have when it comes to our work. We must be our best and we must do our best for the approval and praise of God. **Working for the glory of Christ lays the foundation for a meaningful, joyful and God-honoring job.** Reflecting on Paul's instructions concerning labor relations in Ephesians 6:5-9, here are three foundational attitudes that must define every Christian's work ethic.

1. *Work to please your* _____.

The fundamental attitude that underpins the believer's work ethic is this biblical disposition: You must work for your heavenly Master who is Christ. In other words, you must recognize that your job is your sphere of service and devotion to Christ (Ephesians 6:5). Paul identifies six qualifying phrases that explain the manner by which servants or employees must relate to their masters or employers. By way of summary application, consider these heart attitudes which must characterize our daily job: (a) *We must work obediently and reverently for Christ* (Ephesians 6:5); (b) *We must work sincerely and wholeheartedly for Christ* (Ephesians 6:5-6); (c) *We must work enthusiastically and cheerfully for Christ* (Ephesians 6:7; Romans 12:11; Colossians 3:23).

2. *Work in light of your* _____.

The reward that Paul pertains to in Ephesians 6:8 is not present-day blessings in this life, but eternal reward in the next age. Nothing that you do in the service of Christ will ever be wasted. The Lord will certainly, faithfully and generously reward every Christian worker according to their good deeds. No matter how mundane and ordinary your job is, if you are working faithfully to please and glorify the Lord, there's a far greater payday coming for you that will excel the world's temporal wealth and fleeting fortunes. The reward that our Lord Jesus promises to give includes the Master's word of commendation, the kingdom of God prepared by our heavenly Father, crowns and ruling authority with Christ, and God Himself as our everlasting inheritance (Matthew 25:23,34; Luke 12:32; Revelation 2:10, 26; Psalm 73:26; 16:11).

3. *Work in view of your* _____.

Paul's closing instruction on workplace ethic addresses the Christian masters or employers (Ephesians 6:9). Paul exhorts earthly masters to treat their employees the way they want to be treated. They must also refrain from threatening those who work under their authority, recognizing the fact that both masters and servants, employers and employees are spiritually equal before God and will give an account before their heavenly Master on the judgment seat of Christ (1 Corinthians 4:5).
