

# Living Out an Authentic Christian Life in a Secular Workplace

## 1. Treat our work as our mission field

- **Prioritize God.** Exodus 20:2. I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other God's before me.
- **Honor God.** Colossians. 3:23: Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for me."
- **Trust God.** Proverbs 16:3. Commit to the Lord whatever you do and He will establish your plans."
- **Be God's faithful manager.** Luke 12:42- 44, 48. "The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant who the master finds doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ... From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."
- **Fulfill God's description of who we are.** Proverbs 31: 10 -27. Details the description of a godly woman
- **Work hard to please God.** Ephesians 6:6."Work hard, but not just to please your masters when they are watching. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." -

## 2. Be transparent about the importance of our faith and put your trust in the Lord

- **Be a light.** Matthew 5:19: In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise for your father in heaven.
- **Love the Lord.** Matthew 22:37 "Jesus said, Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind This is the first and greatest commandment."
- **Trust God.** Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight

## 3. Show integrity and be Counter-Cultural in the Workplace

- **Model Christian Integrity.** Proverbs 10:3. The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.
- **Model Truth.** Proverbs 12:22. The Lord detests lying lips but he delights in people who are trustworthy
- **Model Honesty.** Proverbs 11:1. The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him.
- **Work diligently.** Proverbs 10:5. He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps during the harvest is a disgraceful son.
- **Control your emotions.** Matthew 5:22 "But I tell you, anyone who is angry with their brother is subject to judgment."
- **Prioritize love.** Matthew 5:44 "But I tell you, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you."

- **Strive for Excellence. Matthew 5:48** "Be perfect, therefore as your heavenly Father is perfect."
- **Work Hard to Please God (and man!). Ephesians 6:6.** "Work hard, but not just to please your masters when they are watching. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."

#### 4. **Model God-Honoring Speech and be confident to walk away when group behavior isn't godly**

- **Honor God's Name. Exodus 20:7.** You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, because the Lord will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses his name.
- **Don't Gossip. Ephesians 4:29.** Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- **Avoid ungodly influences. Proverbs 2: 12-15** "Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse who have left the straight paths to walk in dark ways who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways."

#### 5. **Show mercy, compassion, caring and demonstrate justice to those in the workplace**

- **Love Others more than yourself. Matthew 22:37-38** "Love the Lord God with all your heart, soul and strength and love your neighbor as yourself."
- **Live out the beatitudes. Mathew 5: 7-9** "Blessed are the merciful ... blessed are the pure in heart ... blessed are the peacemakers."
- **Do good. Isaiah 1:17:** "Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression ..."
- **Don't be quick to judge. Matthew 7:1** "Do not judge, or you too will be judged."
- **Actively practice forgiveness. Matthew 18:22** "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."
- **Choose forgiveness. Ephesians 4:31-32** "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

#### 6. **Practice Servant-Leadership**

- **Practice Humility. Mark 9:33** "Sitting down Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last and the servant of all." and **Philippians 2:3** "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."
- **Prioritize Others. Mark 10:43** "Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant. And whoever wants to be first, must be slave to all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve."