

# Separation of Church & Work

## God @ Work

### Introduction

Matt 6:24-34

24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

NIV

Matt 6:33

33 and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

NLT

### WHY WE LEAVE GOD AT HOME.

1. FEAR OF LOSS OF PROVISION AND PROMOTION. Why would God tell us "Seek first His Kingdom and you will have provision? Non-Christians have provision without seeking the Kingdom.
  - a. The enemy wants us to think "IF YOU PUT KINGDOM OF GOD FIRST WE WILL LACK PROVISION". Unbeknownst to most of us this can play a major role in our decision making at work. He(Satan) knows that we will be challenged to put the Kingdom of God first if we think by doing so would rob us of our basic needs or promotion. Many approach work this way.

- b. GOD WANTS US FREE FROM WORRY OF PROVISION. He wants us free from worry about the basic necessities so that we can be free to focus on His Kingdom.
2. OTHERS ARE PROSPERING. We are challenged because we see others prospering who are not Christian or who don't put the Kingdom of God first. This causes us to doubt God and his promise and predisposes us toward taking over and doing it our way, placing the Kingdom in the back seat.
- a. REALITY Kingdom of God is also about eternity not just today. What may seem unfair today will have a price someday, in this present age or the one to come. But regardless of what's happening around you God says put his Kingdom first and replace our Kingdom with his. Many rewards and many punishments won't be seen until eternity.
  - b. BUT WHY DO THEY PROSPER? Great question. Principles and laws of God work whether you are a Christian or not, and Romans 11:19-20 says:  
  
Rom 11:29-30  
  
29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.  
  
NKJV

## SEPARATING WORK AND GOD LEADS TO A DUAL LIFE.

### DUALISM PRINCIPLE DISCUSSED (Work world and God's Kingdom separate)

- a. Issues with this dualism approach.
  - i. False Kingdom - When the storm comes & it will come, our Kingdom will crumble  
  
Luke 6:46-49  
  
46 "So why do you call me 'Lord,' when you won't obey me? 47 I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then obeys me. 48 It is like a person who builds a house on a strong foundation laid upon the underlying rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against the house, it stands firm because it is well built. 49 But anyone who listens and doesn't obey

is like a person who builds a house without a foundation . When the floods sweep down against that house, it will crumble into a heap of ruins."

NLT

ii. Compromise

Col 3:25

25 But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites who can get away with evil.

NLT

## 1. Principles of God @ Work

Eph 6:5-8

5 Slaves , obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ. 6 Work **hard** (WORK ETHIC), but not just to please your masters when they are **watching** (INTEGRITY). As slaves of Christ, do the **will of God with all your heart**. 7 Work with **enthusiasm**, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people (ATTITUDE). 8 Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free.

NLT

Eph 6:5-8

5 Slaves , obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with **sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ**. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, **doing the will of God from your heart**. 7 Serve **wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men**, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

NIV

Work as unto the Lord! - The Lord is our boss!

- Work hard – with all your heart! More than working hard – its going above and beyond
- Integrity – even when others aren't watching

- Attitude – show respect and work with enthusiasm

Phil 2:14-16

14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life —

NIV

- IF YOU WORK AS WORKING ONTO THE LORD – YOU ARE NOT A VICTIM AND HE OWES YOU NOTHING!
- YOUR ATTITUDE, WORK ETHIC, AND INTEGRITY ARE NOT DEPENDENT ON THE GOODNESS OR JUSTNESS OF YOUR EMPLOYER!

- Servant's heart – willing to do whatever needs to be done to get the job done.

- Develop your skill

Prov 22:29

29 Do you see a man skilled in his work?

He will serve before kings;

he will not serve before obscure men.

NIV

HERE'S WHY - Seeking first the Kingdom of God.

1 Tim 6:1-2

6:1 Christians who are slaves should give their masters full respect **so that the name of God and his teaching will not be shamed.** 2 If your master is a Christian, that is no excuse for being disrespectful. You should work all the harder because you are helping another believer by your efforts.

NLT

## 2. Presence of God @ Work

This is what separates us from the non-Christian. The non-Christian can operate in the principles of God and have great worldly success. But, only we can have the presence of God.

Many times as Christians we will operate with his principles at work but not his presence.

- a. Practice his presence and seek his counsel - To do what he wants you to do. It helps for him to be there with you. *Expect God to be with you at work!*

Luke 5:4-7

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

NIV

Peter was told to throw his nets out – Jesus knows where success is. We don't have to go find him he is there we just have to ask him. But, it is in hard work alongside of Jesus that he tells us where to throw the nets. The scripture doesn't say that Simon was lying around hoping some miracle would happen. He had been working hard.

But, you have to know that He will tell you where to throw your nets. (if you ask and don't believe then you won't receive)

- b. Pray at work – pray for your boss, pray for you coworkers, pray for those who despise you, pray as you walk through your work. Claim it for His Kingdom.

1 Thess 5:16-18

16 **Rejoice always.** 17 **pray without ceasing,** 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

NKJV

HE IS INTERESTED IN YOUR WORK. IT IS NOT UNHOLY OR A SEPARATE WORLD FROM GOD!

3. Principles and Presence of God equal success

SUCCESS REDEFINED

- a. KINGDOM OF GOD ADVANCED. Build your work life around putting the Kingdom of God first and you will find success. Success in the Kingdom of God because his Kingdom is advanced. This is the greatest degree of success.
- b. BUILD YOUR CHARACTER AND FAITH. God is interested in more than getting you promoted. God is interested in building your character and building your dependence on him at work.
- c. ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S PRINCIPLES AND PRESENCE AT WORK!