

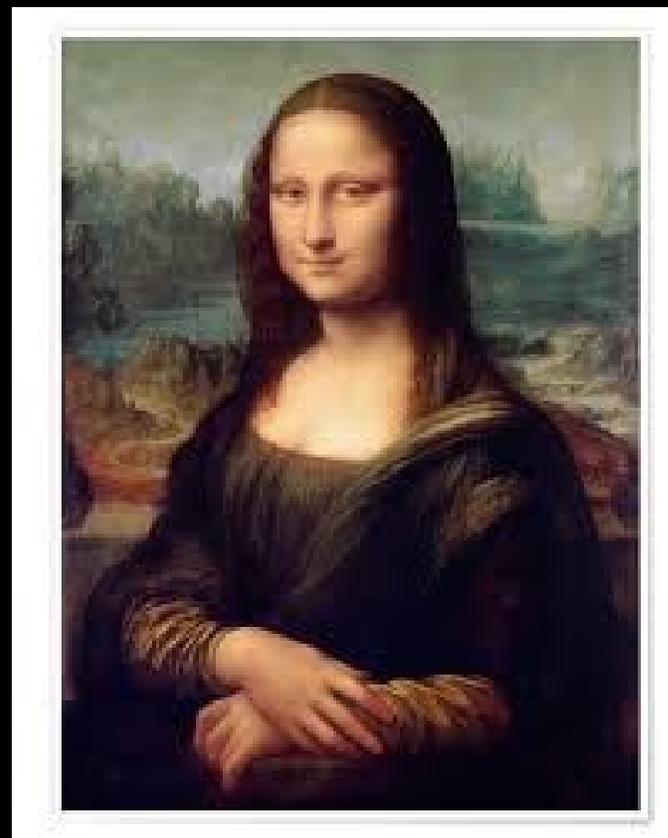
How to Be a Christian at Work

Ephesians 6:5-9

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Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

The Mona Lisa



The Purpose of the Frame

- To present the painting in the best possible way.
- “To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27).
- “Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph. 4:24).
- In your life at present, do people see the frame (you) or the painting of Christ that the Holy Spirit is forming in you?

How to Be a Christian at Work

- Respect the boss
- Respect the work
- Respect the workers



1. Respect the Boss

- **“Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ” (Eph. 6:5),**
- **“not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart” (Eph. 6:6)**

The Importance of Authority

- **“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God” (Rom. 13:1).**
- **“...he raised [Christ] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion ... And he put all things under his feet ...” (Eph. 1:20-22)**
- **“I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named” (Eph. 3:14-15).**

The Christian and Authority

- **“Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.” (Rom. 12:7)**
- **“Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly” (1 Peter 2:18-19).**

The Limits of Authority

- Exodus 1:17: “The midwives, however, feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt had told them; they let the boys live.”
- Acts 5:29, “We must obey God rather than men.”

John Piper

“We can sum up in several sentences. There is no authority except from God. The greatest human ruler should humbly confess he is where he is by virtue of God's sovereign appointment. ... The demand for subjection is relative, not absolute. It depends on whether the demands of the governing authorities require us to disobey Jesus. If they do, we will not be subject at that point but will say with Peter, "We must obey God rather than men."

How to Handle a Difficult Boss

- **Respect his position and do a good job with what he tells you to do. Go “two miles” (Matt 5:41)**
- **Pray for him**
- **Avoid gossiping about him**
- **Do not enable abuse – John 18:22-23 and Acts 23:2-5. If he is abusive then pray for God to show you whether you should continue to work there or not.**
- **Even if he fires you, bless him and move on. (Matt. 5:44 and Romans 12:14-21)**

2. Respect the Work

- **“Rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free” (Eph. 6:7-8).**
- **Brother Lawrence said: “We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed.”**

For Want of a Nail

**For want of a nail the shoe was lost,
for want of a shoe the horse was lost,
for want of a horse the knight was lost,
for want of a knight the battle was lost,
for want of a battle the kingdom was lost.
So a kingdom was lost—all for want of a nail.**



How am I to work with?

- Do I do a good job, “Doing something useful with [my own] hands”?
- Do I encourage others? Do I help them?
- Do I work together for the “greater good”?
- Do I exercise integrity at work?
- Can people see the character of Christ in me?
- Do I bring God to work with me?

3. Respect the Worker

- **“Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him” (Eph. 6:9).**
- **“Fear and Trembling”**
- **Onesimus was sent back to Philemon “no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a beloved brother” (Philemon 1:16).**

What type of frame will you be?

