

Laboring For God In An Unlikely Place Titus 2:9-10

Introduction:

1. This is Labor Day weekend. How would you respond if I were to ask you, “What is your service for God?” “I sing in the choir.” “I teach the kids.” “I lead a LIFE group.”
2. What if somebody said, “Part of my service for God is that I go to work every day and I try to show Christ and share Christ with others that I work with every day.”
3. Most believers don’t think this way, because they tend to separate the secular from the spiritual. What do I mean?
4. Don’t misunderstand, I believe serving God in church is important, but did you know God, in His Word, also talks about serving Christ in your daily work?
5. This morning, let’s examine some spiritual truths in God’s Word that I believe will help us see our work as an exciting opportunity to serve God.
6. Hopefully, you will begin viewing your job as a ministry—a God-given opportunity to impact people for God.
7. Let’s turn to Titus 2:9-10. Praise God, today the slave/master relationship no longer exists in America. But the employee/boss relationship **does** exist—you simply have more rights, privileges, and opportunities than a slave.
8. God gives us principles that, if followed, adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.
 - The word “*adorn*” means “to decorate, to beautify.” 2:10
 - In other words, you make the gospel of Christ and the Christian faith look appealing to those who are lost and without Christ. When you (as a worker) display a certain conduct while working, you beautify what you believe about Jesus Christ and the Word of God.
9. On the other hand, the absence of the biblical work ethic will bring reproach upon the name of Christ.
 - When your actions match your beliefs, it is called integrity.
 - When your actions do not match your beliefs, it is called hypocrisy.
10. Every believer should beautify the gospel at the workplace. When you are working, how do you beautify your beliefs?

First, always demonstrate proper respect.

1. According to this verse, when you work for others, you are to obey them and seek to please them in all things (cf. Colossians 3:22; Ephesians 6:5).
 - Naturally, if they ask you to disobey God's Word, you must obey God first and foremost.
2. When you have an obedient spirit, to please those that you work under, you demonstrate respect for their position.
 - You may say, “But I **don't** respect them!”
 - Maybe you can't respect the person, but God's Word says that you should respect and honor their **position**.

3. Someone may ask, "But what if my boss is ungodly and wicked—a pagan unbeliever?"
 - **Illustration:** Daniel worked in a pagan environment, for pagan kings, yet he showed proper respect.
4. Notice Ephesians 6:5 again, and carefully note the last three words, "*...as unto Christ.*"
 - As long as you work for that boss, you are to obey him or her with the same spirit and attitude that you would Jesus Christ.

Second, exhibit complete honesty.

1. It might help if we define some words in verse 10.
 - "*Purloining*"—"stealing, embezzling."
 - "*Fidelity*"—"honesty, adherence to truth."
2. Over one-third of all employees admit that they steal from their employer (money, time theft, theft of supplies, merchandise or company property, overcharging customers and pocketing it, information theft—product design and trade secrets, etc.).
 - It costs businesses in the United States 60 to 120 billion dollars per year.
3. Christian, you destroy the testimony of Christ when you are dishonest at work. Your daily life should reflect Who lives inside of you. Romans 12:17; 2 Corinthians 8:21
4. When you are at work, you represent Christ, your pastors, your church, this body of believers, and the Word of God.
5. When you are squeaky-clean honest, others may not like you and may even resent you (Daniel 6:4). What was the key for Daniel? Daniel 6:20 gives us the key, "*...whom thou servest continually...*"
 - He didn't separate his job from his service to the Lord. He knew he represented God everywhere and in everything he did. He knew he was working for Somebody bigger than the boss.

Third, show zeal for your work.

1. This verse says, "*...to please him well in all things...*"
 - In Colossians 3:23 and Ephesians 6:7, notice the phrase, "*as to the Lord.*"
 - You do your job as if Christ is your boss, and Christ will be inspecting your work.
 - **Illustration:** Joseph—whether it was in Potiphar's house, in prison, or as second-in-command in Egypt—had a work ethic that was always the same.
2. When Christians demonstrate a lazy, careless approach to their work, it reflects on their Savior. What platform do you have to speak to your co-workers about Christ?
3. But when Christians are faithful, zealous, and fervent toward their work, it beautifies their beliefs concerning Jesus Christ and His Word.

Fourth, display a good attitude at all times.

1. In verse 9, notice the phrase, "*...not answering again.*"
 - This means "to dispute, contradict, speak against."
 - Ephesians 6:7 says, "*...with **good will** doing service.*" "*Good will*" means "with kindness."
2. Daniel is such a great example. Daniel 6:3
 - He was preferred. But why? An excellent spirit was in him.
 - Do you think things always went his way? Do you think he always approved of everything that went on at work? Remember, he worked in a pagan environment.
 - "But you don't know my job and the kind of people I have to work with!" "I hate my job!" "I'm a victim of circumstances!" "I have this job because I couldn't get the one I wanted!"
 - There may be somebody at work that God could use you to reach with the gospel of Christ, but you never will with that kind of an attitude.
3. When you display a godly spirit and attitude at all times, you adorn (beautify) your beliefs about Jesus Christ and the Word of God.

In Conclusion:

1. You must quit viewing your work life as separate from your faith. We tend to compartmentalize our life (church, work, home, hobbies, etc.).
2. This is not God's plan—God's Word teaches that your Christian faith should influence and affect **every** other area of your life. As you live out your faith, you adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.
3. Here is the point of Titus 2:1-10—whether you are of old age, a youth, married, single, or whether it is home life or work life—we are to demonstrate the grace of God and the Lord Jesus Christ in all things.
4. According to this passage, our lives play a major role in the public testimony of Jesus Christ and the Word of God (vs. 5, 8, and 10).
5. When you head to work on Tuesday, I hope you can see your workplace as a sacred place where you can serve the Lord and demonstrate your faith in Jesus Christ.