

## **"BUSINESS GOD'S WAY!"**

**Colossians 3:22-4:1**

### **I) EMPLOYEE OF THE KINGDOM! (v22-25)**

When the Apostle Paul wrote Colossians there were over 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire, thus the exhortation was for Christian slaves to testify Christ through their work ethic for the salvation of their masters. Let's connect these concepts to our modern era by suggesting the *bondservants as employees* and *masters as employers*, these principles and promises are relevant and rewarding.

#### **➤ Practice these EIGHT FAITHFUL EMPLOYEE PRINCIPLES:**

#1 – **OBEY** – the company/employer's job description, policies and goals.

#2 – **NOT WITH EYESERVICE** – in other words work when you boss is not around.

#3 – **NOT AS MEN-PLEASERS** – follow instructions, do the job right and with quality; sometimes fellow employees will slack and try to bring quality down to their level, don't give in to peer pressure.

#4 – **WORK WITH SINCERITY OF HEART** – sincerity is freedom from hypocrisy; a pure motive, not a backstabber, earn your pay.

#5 – **FEARING GOD** – yes God is at the workplace; so let's do the right thing!

#6 – **WORK HEARTILY UNTO THE LORD** – work for the LORD at work and watch God work for you.

#7 – **RECEIVE THE INHERITANCE** – God gives the pay raise, promotion, job change, etc.

#8 – **WARNING:** "*But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.*"

- **Why work?** – God said in Genesis 3:19 - "*man shall work by the sweat of his brow*"; in 1 Timothy 5:8- "*But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.* (Let's "go to the ant" in Proverbs 6:6-11.)

> Let's read **Luke 12:42-48** – Jesus said, "***Who is a faithful & wise steward?***" Notice three key words: (1) ***Faithfulness*** - "*The just shall live by faith.*" This declaration of the Christian's principle of life is found four times in the Bible: Hab. 2:1-5; Ro. 1:17; Gal. 3:10,11; Heb. 10:38. In Habakkuk we see the difference between the lives of the unjust and the just. The unjust are puffed up and live by their own self-sufficiency. But the just live by faith—their confidence is in God. To them, faith is more than a philosophy of life; it is the very principle of life. The just shall live his whole life by faith. Faith does not make anything easy, but it does make all things **possible**. - Porter Barrington

(2) ***Wisdom*** - The word wisdom is found 254 times in the Bible. Webster's Dictionary defines wisdom as, "The ability to understand what is right, true, or enduring; good judgment; knowledge." Discover the value of God's wisdom in Proverbs 2:1-9. (3) ***Servant*** – The word servant is found 522 times in the Bible. Jesus said in Mark 10:42-45 - "*You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*"

### **II) KINGDOM 500 EMPLOYERS (4:1)**

(v1) **MASTERS = EMPLOYERS** – "*Give your employees what is just and fair*" – In 1 Tim 6:10-12 - "*For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

➤ **Employers "Go for God!"** - **Matt 16:25-27**- "*For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.* (Also Matthew 25:14-30)



## EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYEES & INNOVATIVE EMPLOYERS

### > EMPLOYEES - BECOMING A GREAT EMPLOYEE - TOP TEN TRAITS! by Richard Rutherford

What exactly is it though that makes an employee great? These top ten traits give some ideas to employers looking to hire and of course to employees who want to operate at the top of their game:

1. **Dependability:** Great employees are always dependable. They do the job they are supposed to do every time, and no one has to worry that they don't deliver the goods. A great employee can be counted to always have their work done right, when it is supposed to be done - it is a forgone conclusion that they will, and no one else has to spend any time worrying about it.
2. **Team Spirit:** Great employees are team players. They don't constantly seek out attention or hog the limelight. Rather, a great employee works with others to make sure that the things that need to get done do get done, for the good of the company.
3. **Taking Direction:** Great employees know how to take direction. They know how to take criticism, direction and advice gracefully and make it work for them when doing their job.
4. **Trust:** Great employees don't spread office gossip and they don't dish company dirt. Likewise, they always tell the truth to their employer, even if it lands them in hot water.
5. **Confidentiality:** This of course is strongly linked to number 4. Great employees always guard the confidential nature of their business dealings and protects everyone's privacy.
6. **Participation:** Great Employees participate in the day to day life of the office. They don't bow out of meetings or skip the office birthday celebrations. These things may not be a fun part of working life, and everyone involved knows that everyone else has some place they would rather be - but a great employee wouldn't be any place else.
7. **Likeability:** Great employees get along with other employees. Every office has one person that is in everyone else's business and talks to loud on the phone and generally stirs things up and gets under everyone's skin. This kind of employee zaps office morale - a great employee is a good co-worker to everyone.
8. **Competence:** Great employees have good working skills. It may sound obvious, but a great employee has the abilities needed to do their job, and they constantly seek ways to improve, like going to training seminars or seeking further education. Great workers have great skills.
9. **Tact:** Great employees have tact and decorum. If there is a problem in the office, a great employee doesn't make a scene in front of everyone else. A great employee will deal with such issues with privacy and diplomacy. Further, a great employee doesn't tell tasteless, political or religious jokes, nor do they send emails that tell these kinds of jokes.
10. **Attitude:** Last but certainly not least, great employees have a great attitude. Bad attitudes bring everyone down. A great employee helps make work great for everyone else by having a good spirit about their job.

That's a lot of good traits to try and acquire! Don't be dispirited if you fail to match up on a number (but hopefully not all!) of them. Just work on them one at a time and you'll find your career progressing faster than you would have ever believed possible. Great Employees only comprise about 5% of the workforce.

> EMPLOYERS - Creating A Winning Business Culture is the most important action any manager or business owner can take. Here's 10 ways how to do it right... (by Martin Haworth)

1. **Great Environment** - Have the place you work comfortable, with all resources in place. You have to get this right first, before expecting a great culture.
2. **Be Very Clear** - Through having a set of standards you state clearly and a process for identifying to people exactly what is expected of them, there will be no surprises. People will have their goals and targets. It will be easy for them to understand and deliver.
3. **Encourage Sharing** - Through your own modeling, you can help all of your people to work closely together in a generous and supportive way. Be the 'shining beacon' in this.
4. **Be a Champion** - Shout your loudest for how proud you are of your people as individuals and as a team. By flying their flag you will get positive team spirit with individual performance.
5. **Listen and Talk** - Make contact with your people regularly, both formally and informally. Just listen to what they have to say, value their contribution (really, and show it!) and tell them the stuff they need to know.
6. **Be a Part** - Get yourself into the team. Show you are interested in the work they do - and even work with them too. Take the time and trouble to understand their work, their issues and their experiences.
7. **Watch for Opportunity** - Times will come when more can happen to bond your people together. They may not be obvious - so get alerted to these chances offered. Fine tune your awareness and go for it!
8. **Appreciate Effort** - Say 'thank you' and let people know they have done well - especially when they've gone an extra mile for you. Not only will they do it again, but you will also build your personal relationship with them and the culture.
9. **Encourage** - Where you have the opportunity, take the time to encourage the next phase of their growth. Make it a priority. People love to know how they are doing and what they can expect in their future. Give them some picture of their potential and a route to achieve it.
10. **Let it Happen** - Having an ongoing culture that works well is just something that can evolve. So keep out of the way as this wondrous thing starts to take place. Great cultures become self-fulfilling!