

Applied Christianity

Christianity Goes to Work

Colossians 3:22-23

The work place is both a challenge and an opportunity. Our values and beliefs are often challenged, but the work environment presents unique opportunities for our Christianity to exert productive influence. The idea of Christianity going to work is, however, a somewhat complicated challenge. This should not, however, surprise us, life isn't easy!

Balance (Balance is the ability to *continually recognize* and *juggle multidimensional assignments* and *opportunities* successfully)

- *Continually*—change is the norm (Isa. 40:8)
- *Recognize*—what is, might be, or ought to be (I Chron. 12:32)
- *Juggle*—the combining of relatively simple tasks into complex actions with a view toward the BIG PICTURE (Col. 3:23; Mk. 12:28-31; Col. 3:1-25)
- *Multidimensional*—God, family, community, work, self (i.e. consider the wide range of life concerns the Bible addresses)
- *Assignments* (must or should do, cf. Jn. 17:17; Jas. 4:17) and *Opportunities* (Could do cf. Rom. 14:1; I Cor. 6:12; 10:23)

Ambition

- Understand the difference between success and significance—God often sees things differently (cf. Matt. 23:1-7; 25:24-29)
- Remember the difference between who we are and *Whose* we are (cf. Lk. 9:23; Matt. 10:39)
- Remember Solomon (Ecc. 12:13)
- Excellence is to be motivated by God (Col. 3:23)

Work and Rest

- Work is from God and is good (Gen. 2:15; I Tim. 5:8)
- Periodic rest, however, is very valuable (Deut. 5:12-15)
- Stop, reflect (Ps. 1:1-2), renew our partnership with God (I Jn. 1:3)
- Productivity is not the same as just doing more work (cf. Col. 4:5-6)
- Limit the things to which we give attention (Ecc. 3:1-8)

Work and Family

- The choice is not between work and family, both have a needed place (cf. Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:17)
- Family is a big part of our response to Jesus (Eph. 5:21-6:4)
- Good intentions are never enough (Matt. 23:3)
- “Margins” or “white spaces” are needed when work is concerned.
 - Family nonnegotiables
 - Scheduling

- Agreements
- Accountability
- Love

Work, Support and Structure

- We cannot do our best alone (Eph. 4:16; I Cor. 12:12-26)
- Paul was often in the company of others—he had a wide circle of friends (cf. Rom. 16:1-16)
- Iron sharpens iron (Prov. 27:17)
- We need coaches/mentors (cf. Jn. 14:8-9) and to be coaches/mentors (I Tim. 1:2)
- The basic social unit, however, is the family (Gen. 1:28; 2:24)
- We must be team players—the body concept applying to the church applies to any successful group activity, including our work team (cf. I Cor. 12:12-27)
- We need to understand the place where we find ourselves at work and thus be able to work from the position of understanding, able to do our best (cf. Col. 3:23)

Work is a vital part of life. It is to be governed and motivated by God. It is to be engaged in concert with wider interests and priorities. Let the work place be a place where we glorify God, do our best, and remember the broader aspects of life.

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(Adapted from the book ***Life @ Work***)