

## HONORING CHRIST FROM NINE TO FIVE

Ephesians 6:5-9

### Introduction

- I. The **Employee's** Manual – Ephesians 6:5-8
  - A. The Worker's **Action** – Ephesians 6:5, Colossians 3:22, 1 Timothy 6:1, Titus 2:9-10
  - B. The Worker's **Assignment** – Ephesians 6:5, 1 Timothy 6:2
  - C. The Worker's **Attitude** – Ephesians 6:5
  - D. The Worker's **Ambition** – Ephesians 6:5, Colossians 3:23, Ecclesiastes 9:10, 1 Peter 2:18-19
  - E. The Worker's **Aim** – Ephesians 6:5-7
  - F. The Worker's **Award** – Ephesians 6:8, Galatians 6:9
  
- II. The **Employer's** Manual – Ephesians 6:9
  - A. **Respect** Your Employees – Ephesians 6:9, Colossians 4:1
  - B. **Refrain** From Abusive Treatment – Ephesians 6:9
  - C. **Remember** to Whom You Report – Ephesians 6:9

### Conclusion

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

### Getting Started

1. Share a time when you had a job that you...
  - a. Loved—What made it a great job?
  - b. Didn't like—How was it a “downer” of a workplace experience?

### Going Deeper

1. Read Ephesians 6:5 and 1 Timothy 6:1. What does Scripture say about our attitude toward our work? How does this serve as a silent testimony to those who observe us? **The way you work for your employer can actually make the gospel of Jesus Christ attractive (or unattractive) to people. The Bible says that you can change the opinion people have of Christ by the way you—a Christ-follower—go about your business.**
  
2. Read Ephesians 6:5-7. Describe a time when you needed to work on something that was difficult, or even something that you didn't want to do. How did your commitment to Christ factor into how you labored on that task or project? **Sometimes we obey God for the simple reason that He has called us to do so. That doesn't mean we always *want* to do what He has asked.**

3. Read Ephesians 6:8. When have you felt this kind of spiritual encouragement to do your very best in your career? *It's hard to remember this principle. When we work hard and no one seems to notice, we can get discouraged and forget that we are *not* working for the boss we can see but for the One whom we cannot see (but sees us in all that we do). And it is this unseen boss who will one day give out the rewards for service (See also Galatians 6:9; Matthew 25:14-30).*
4. Read Ephesians 6:9. How are employers to treat those who are subordinate to them? Tell a story about someone you know who has been this kind of boss. *Employers have men and women working under their authority. They want them to work hard, be respectful, and do an honest day's work. The Bible says if that's what a boss wants, then he/she needs to show the employee the same kind of respect with which the employer wants to be treated. That's what verse nine is teaching by saying, "Do the same things." In other words, *give those who work for you what is due.**
5. Read Colossians 3:23. Whether you are an employee or an employer, describe someone at your company who models this kind of work ethic. How do they talk, work, and act? *Such a simple scripture – yet with such an incredible, liberating message! When we do everything heartily (i.e. from the heart) for the Lord, this overrides all ambitions of wanting to make a good impression on other people. We are doing it for God!*

## Applying the Message

1. In what area of your career do you feel the need to obey at a whole new level? How might your witness in the world change if you adopt this new behavior? **Even in our work, the Lord wants to be seen through us. As we take on more of His way of doing things, we will 1) be a blessing to those around us and 2) be blessed by God Himself.**
  
2. As Christian **employees**, what are some practical ways we can show respect and obedience to those who are in authority over us? As Christian **employers**, what are some ways we can show respect to those who report to us? **We have a wonderful opportunity in this lesson to shift the way we show up at work by upping our “respect” game.**