

Pastor Sheryl's Notes

Faith & Workplace Ministry

Question: My question is about your job and your walk. Is our job our ministry? Are they separate? Is our job our purpose?

What is Ministry?

Confusion about the true value of your work can come from many sources, but one clear cause is the misunderstanding of a common word we often hear used. It is the term "ministry."

- The word "**ministry**" originates from the Latin word ministerium, meaning "service," "office," or "attendance." It is derived from the Latin **minister**, meaning "servant" or "attendant."
- We are all involved in service work. When we have the correct understanding of the word "ministry," we realize the common misconception that God thinks some jobs are more spiritual than other jobs is simply not true.
- **If you follow Christ and you work, guess what? You are in ministry!**

How to Honor God in Your Job

1 Corinthians 10:31 reminds us, **"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"** (ESV)

- Many of us spend most of our waking hours at work. If we are honoring this scripture than living out your Christian Walk/faith **MUST** be a part of how we operate at work.
- God didn't create us to be a worshipper on Sunday and a worldly person Monday thru Friday. Sadly, many Christians follow the world's standards on their jobs because they separate their faith from their work
- But God intends for us to be **HOLISTIC** people, not schizophrenic in our approach to life as His children!

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16, ESV

- This scripture says we are light. When we go to work if we hide that fact, we are, in essence, putting our light under a basket. But when we are determined to live for Christ in **EVERY** situation, we bring light into a dark world!
- **When we view our job as our calling and live out Christian values at work, we can have spiritual impact as a light for Christ in the workplace.**
- Billy Graham said, "I believe that one of the next great moves of God is going to be through believers in the workplace." (You may hear some people refer to this as Marketplace Ministry)

Why It Matters

- **Honoring God in your work brings glory to Him but it also allows you to grow in your faith & walk with God.** Much of my growth has come from living out my faith in the midst of people and systems who are not always God-honoring
- **Others** in your work sphere (like your coworkers, leaders, and clients) need to see Christ in you. You may be the only Christian at work or in their whole life — their only connection to the Savior who loves them. Every interaction you have with them matters.

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. (Colossians 3:23, NLT)

- Obeying this command and watching God work through you will bring you greater fulfillment and joy than you're currently experiencing in your work. **Guaranteed.**

Biblical Principles for the Workplace

1. **Work is sacred and built into our DNA** - *"The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15, ESV).*
 - All honest work possesses inherent dignity because we're doing what we were made to do as people created in the image of a working God.
 - Every morning, we ought to reframe our perspective about going to work not as an obligation but as a sacred responsibility
 - All our work has value — no matter how mundane it feels. And every job — regardless of title or pay — is an opportunity to glorify God when we do it as an act of worship.
 - **OFFER EACH WORKDAY TO THE LORD!**
 - **Suggested Prayer:** *Father, I thank you for this job. You have called me to this workplace and I am grateful. Help me worship you through my work, love you with my whole heart, and love my coworkers as myself. Show me how to glorify you in all I do and say, and may your Holy Spirit be at work in my interactions throughout this day. Please bless this company with peace, prosperity, and safety. May your kingdom come here in this place. Amen.*
2. **Work with creativity, excellence and integrity** – *Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out. (Proverbs 10:9)*
 - This is how God works & we are made in His image!
 - You can creatively solve problems, make things beautiful & appreciate diversity
 - Working in excellence is putting our whole heart into our work & always striving to grow and improve
 - Nothing lets us stand out like walking in integrity, even when it's difficult or requires sacrifice!

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3. **Practice faith-driven servant leadership** – *“For you were called to freedom, brothers, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13)*
 - Jesus was/is the greatest leader of all, and he came to serve! You don’t have to be the boss to serve like Jesus.
 - We reflect Jesus to our coworkers when we treat them with respect, patience, and humility — in short, when we love them the way he loves them.
 - **We can also serve our coworkers with our words.** Avoid gossip and negativity, and, instead, use the power of your words to build up those around you. ***You’ll stand out from the crowd when you go out of your way to listen, encourage a struggling coworker, and offer wise counsel based in Scripture.***
4. **Confront Workplace Challenges with Faith** – *“Faith without works is dead.” (James 2:26)*
 - Work holds a primary space in our lives, the place where we spend 40+ hours each week. ***Your job is a primary context for God’s work in transforming your heart.***
 - Take a biblical approach to workplace challenges by responding to an angry coworker/customer with love, making decisions prayerfully, following regulations instead of finding loopholes, addressing unrealistic expectations with your boss instead of complaining to your teammate, and pursuing promotions while still being content.
 - You won’t get it right every time. That’s when you have an opportunity to seek forgiveness from your coworkers — another demonstration of a Christ-centered heart!
5. **Boldly and Humbly Declare Your Identity as a Christian** – *“And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God’s mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.” (Ephesians 6:19, NLT)*
 - As God gives you opportunity, speak up about who you are as a Christ-follower and why it matters in your life and work.
 - Remember that each situation will require discernment and dependence on the Holy Spirit.
6. **Practice Sabbath** – *“There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His. (Hebrews 4:9-10, NIV)*
 - Sabbath is “a day to stop the things that occupy our workdays and participate in activities that nurture peace, worship, relationships, celebration and thankfulness.”
 - Sabbath was God’s idea from the beginning and the invitation is open to you — not as an obligation but as a gift.