

A Christian's Work Ethic

Why is a strong work ethic important to every Christian?

Many people, including Christians, often take work for granted or often complain about work. Work seems to be the “ends of the means”. Most don't like their work but understand that without work, we could not provide for food and shelter. The Bible also says “if a man will not work, he shall not eat”, 2 Thessalonians 3:10. One who is physically able to work but accepts handouts or takes advantage of other's generosity seems contrary to scripture.

The Bible points out several statements about work and how Christians should conduct themselves as employees. Paul condemned idleness and thievery and encouraged good work activity (Ephesians 4:28). He even told the Thessalonians to keep on working until the return of Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:1-14).

Whatever the vocation, Christian believers should view a job as a means of a testimony towards the employer or boss. The standards of a Christian are set much higher than those from the world. Christians should endeavour to display qualities of being honest, on time, truthful and conscientious of how to improve work environment rather than causing strife or dissension among employees. A Christian should always put the employer's best interest before theirs. Most employers expect people to work and do a good job for a fair rate of pay. Anything else is extra. Contrary to some employees, employers don't owe more than they require. Christians have higher moral standards than others and should never fall into a “trap” of expecting more than they deserve. Christians should never forget they are representing Christ in the workplace and is a testimony who Christ is.

We should also teach our children the importance of good work ethics. Giving them an allowance is not a form of bribery but often teaches importance of responsibility and being able to complete tasks at hand.

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