

## INTEGRITY GOES TO MARKET

### Titus 2:9-10

Ad in major newspaper: “Executive, age 22-80. Job entails sitting with feet on desk from 10 am to 4:30 pm, watching others work. Must be willing to play golf every other afternoon. Salary starts at \$5,000/week.

But wait, there's a footnote: **We don't really have this job. We just thought you'd like to see what everybody wants to apply for.**

**Swindoll:** Many employers don't want to hire *Christian* workers!

“They tend to be presumptuous—take advantage of Christian boss.”

“I find them negative, critical, resistant to change.”

“Last several I've hired simply could not (or *would* not) do the job.”

“They're preoccupied with other things—witnessing, church, \_\_\_?”

“I can't trust them when I'm not around.”

“Show me a lazy, irritating Christian on the job, and I'll show you an office or customer that isn't interested in his message.”

**“Best platform on which we build a case for Christianity at work rests on 6 pillars: integrity, faithfulness, punctuality, quality workmanship, pleasant attitude, and enthusiasm.”**

“Hire a person like that and it will only be a matter of time before business will improve ... people will be impressed ... and Christianity will seem important.”

**Christians *should* be the best employees out there!**  
Titus 2: **Our message should be accompanied by an appropriate lifestyle —consistent with what we believe.**

**Principle applied to slaves** 2:9-10: “Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they’re to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, <sup>10</sup>not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.”

**SOUND DOCTRINE SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY FAITHFULNESS IN THE WORKPLACE**

Slavery is a horrible thing. It opens the door for incredible abuse. Yet, Paul didn’t tell slave owners to free their slaves, nor slaves to rebel.

Slaves were to submit to authority God placed over them, to serve their masters as serving the Lord, and to be faithful to their owners.

In U.S., working people no longer serve slave system.

Same **principles** of godly living apply in modern workplace:

- \* **Christian employers ought to treat employees fairly.**
- \* **Christian employees ought to put in a full day’s work and be faithful to employers.**

Paul uses slave/master relationship because it’s the common pattern. Household slaves include all family members, even women and kids

**60,000,000 slaves in Roman empire** [2/3 of people were slaves]

Professionals were *usually* slaves: doctors, teachers, musicians, actors, secretaries.

They were the *workers*. That included most people!

*Slaves had no rights*. Masters *owned* them. You had no more right to complain than if master threw a possession and broke it!

Paul’s principles apply to any employee/employer relationship.

Social implications are different, but principles remain the same.

## **HOW SHOULD CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEES DEMONSTRATE INTEGRITY IN THE WORK PLACE?**

2:9-10a

1. **Christian employees should submit to their boss**  
*“Submission” is attitude—putting your heart into your job, not just “punching time clock” (“another day older and a deeper in debt.”)*
2. **Christian employees should try to please the boss**  
 Do everything we can to *please* employer—make their job *pleasure*.  
 It involves pleasant *attitude*.
3. **Christian employees should NOT talk back to boss**  
 We’re not there to argue, dispute decisions, or thwart plans.  
 We’re there to do best we can to accomplish what he wants done.  
 Griping and complaining about boss’ expectations doesn’t make our faith attractive, especially to those in authority over us.
4. **Christian employees should NOT steal from their boss.**  
 In Paul’s day there were two ways to “get back” at the boss:
  1. Talk back to him; “bad mouth” him; make his job miserable.
  2. Or, you could steal from him.
 Millions of dollars are lost each year by **theft in the workplace**  
 —from paper clips and pencils, to computers!  
 We ought to be trustworthy when the owner’s back is turned.

Modern offenses: clock watching, extended break times, socializing, even *witnessing*, when you're being paid for your time

### **5. We should establish reputation for faithfulness.**

Eph. 6/Col 3 urge us to be faithful, *not just when their eye's on us, when they're watching, but all the time.* **[Reliance]**

Let them know that you work for a higher boss than them; it's important that *He* sees you working well.

Christian employees should be different than non-Christians!

### **We should be best employees our boss has!**

We'll *never* be perfect. We won't always do everything right.

They'll be able to count on us to give our best, according to ability.

Billy Graham worked as dish washer as boy. He decided if God wanted him to wash dishes, then God wants him to be best dish washer his employer had! People he worked for used to brag about "best dish washer they ever had!"

*That's kind of reputation we should have!*

### ***We demonstrate the reality of our faith by how we fulfill our obligations at work.***

**What about when employer is unjust or abusive in dealing with those who work for him? 1 Pet 2:18-25**

Natural response: "We don't do our part

**because *someone else* isn't doing his part."**

We glorify God by faithfulness, whether *anyone* else does his part!

I can't worry about others—I can only do something about my part!

**Command 2:18** “*Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.*”

**We ought to SUBMIT to our boss**, giving him respect.  
whether he’s *reasonable and fair*, or *crooked and unjust*.

**Principle: 2:19-20** “*This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.* <sup>20</sup>*For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.*”

**We submit to authority God established**,  
**regardless of how they treat us**—even when they  
abuse authority.

I’m responsible to God for *my* part; boss will give account for his.  
*lit., "This is GRACE before God"* (2X—vs. 19/20—“a gracious thing”

*What is this grace? Being able to suffer unjustly!*

*It's not grace—we deserve no credit—when we suffer due to sin*  
—i.e., when we’re rebellious and suffer for it!

It’s only **grace** when we suffer unjustly!

**SUPREME EXAMPLE—Jesus Christ 2:21-23** “*For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.* <sup>22</sup>*He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.* <sup>23</sup>*When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.*”

**Christ suffered unjustly, without fighting back.**

***Submission to authority in midst of persecution demonstrates that we're suffering on account of God and not for evil deeds.***

**WHY SHOULD WE DEMONSTRATE INTEGRITY AT WORK?**

**2:10b** *"that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior."*

**We're faithful at work, ...**

**so our message may be attractive to people who watch**

**"Adorn"** root for: "cosmetics." Arranging of jewelry; "cosmetology,"

Everything related to making a person beautiful, or attractive. Years ago, hot topic of discussion: *should Christians wear cosmetics?*

Kind of "cosmetics" ALL Christians—men *and* women—should wear!

It refers specifically to what makes us attractive to unbelievers.

***When we serve faithfully, our message becomes attractive to unbelievers watching our lifestyle!***

Many people "never darken the door" of a church. When they find out I'm a minister, they speak "holy" language. Their tongue is "purified!"

So how do such people discover the Good News about Christ?

=>when fellow workers *show* them what Christianity looks like!

**Chrysostom** noted power of such testimony to a **pagan slave owner who sees a lowly slave living a better life than he:**

"Angry man finds his slave gentle and submissive;

Inhuman, ferocious man finds slave meek and respectful;  
 Fraudulent business man notices slave doesn't steal or tell  
 lies;

Where did *slaves* learn such lofty principles?

Old saying: ***"YOU're only Bible some people read!"***

That's why God's rebuke to His people Israel is so stinging:

***"Through YOU God's name is blasphemed among the pagans!"***

Sometimes a Christian worker's ethics cause frustration,  
 but if boss knows he can *trust* a worker,

he will eventually value that *trust* more than anything else.

As we see degeneration of culture, we're prone to throw up our  
 hands

That's when Christianity has its greatest advantage.

**We're called by God to be light, not in a lit room,  
 but in *darkness!***

**What do OUR co-workers see in us?**

**What does our boss see in us?**

***God wants His people to stand out in the crowd,  
 so our Good News will be adorned by unique  
 lifestyle so people will be attracted to our Savior!***

***"World isn't convinced by logic, or by learning, but by our LIFE!"***

**All categories of people** who hold sound doctrine should conduct  
 selves consistent with such doctrine, so we attract others to  
 Christ.

Paul urges us: **see ourselves as God sees us; live accordingly.**

**We all ought to adorn our doctrine with our  
 practice!**

**FINAL EXAM** for Christian workers:

1. Do I consistently do the job my employer expects me to, or am I shirking on my responsibilities?
2. Am I on time to work?
3. Do I overextend my coffee breaks?
4. Do I complete my assignments as I'm asked to?
5. Am I loyal to the company?
6. Do I use time at work for my employer's benefit or for my own?
7. Am I a "clock watcher?"
8. Does my work, make people want to find out why I work the way I do?

As a boy, Ironside worked for Christian cobbler, pounding out leather soles before they were sewn on. Another cobbler found they wore out sooner, if not pounded out. He made more profit. When Ironside suggested the technique to his employer, the godly man replied, "Son, I do not repair shoes to make money. I do it to glorify God."

**God wants US to stand out in the crowd, so our  
Good News will attract people who are  
watching!**

*Is that what we work for?*

*Does it show to people who work around us?*