



Work and Worship

Lesson Six • Colossians 3:22–4:1

We often *over-identify* or *under-identify* with our work and sometimes we do both at the same time!

After the Curse: How Does Our Depravity Distort Our View of Work?			
WORK	IDOLATRY	IDLENESS	IDEALISM
Attitude	Work Is <i>EVERYTHING!</i>	Work Is <i>NOTHING!</i>	<i>SOME</i> Work Is <i>EVERYTHING</i> , while <i>OTHER</i> Work Is <i>NOTHING!</i>
Heart Distortion	Workaholic	Sluggard	Discontented Heart or Dualistic Worldview
Reminder	Work <i>makes</i> a lousy God!	Work is <i>not</i> a four-letter word!!	Work is <i>not</i> your <i>primary</i> calling!

- Our work can **NEVER** give us what we really need or truly want—*only King Jesus can!*
 - We shouldn't *make an idol* of our work, because our jobs make lousy gods!
 - Just ask the **Rich Young Ruler** in! *Luke 18:18-23*
- Our work **DESERVES** the very best we have to give—we *are really working for King Jesus!*
 - We shouldn't *be idle* in our work, because work isn't a four-letter word!
 - Just ask **Wicked, Lazy, Worthless Servant** in the Parable of the Talents! *Matthew 25:14-30*

Are you more prone to MAKE an IDOL of your work or BE IDLE in your work?

- Jesus' eternal work **TRANSFORMS** our everyday work into worship.
 - We should **identify** with King Jesus in our work, because we should worship while we work!

"Being a Christian in the workplace means the truth of the gospel should work itself out in every detail of your life, including your job." –Sebastian Traeger and Greg Gilbert, The Gospel at Work

Who Are You Working for at Work...at School...in Retirement?

1. In Christ You Are New Creation with a **NEW JOB!**

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."
2 Corinthians 5:17

"And He who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' And He said, 'Write, for these words are faithful and true.'" Revelation 21:5

As a New Creation in Christ...

- You work for a new **BOSS**, who is the King.
"It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." Colossians 3:24b

- Unique emphasis: *"the LORD, Christ"*
- Present tense:
- Stating a Fact (*indicative*) or Giving a Command (*imperative*)?

"You are serving the Lord Christ." ESV

“Serve the Lord Christ.” NET
 “Be slaves of the Lord Christ” NAB [New American Bible: Revised New Testament (1988)]
 “Christ is the master you must serve” REB [Revised English Bible (1990)]

An Ongoing Command Based on Reality:
Start serving and keep on serving the Lord—your Lord—Christ!
Matthew 6:24-25

- You have a new **RESPONSIBILITY** from the King.

Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.” Colossians 3:22

Matthew 22:37-39; 6:33

Do people want what you are showing them at work?

*Does how you are working on Monday make them thirsty for more of the God
 you claim to worship on Sundays?*

- You have a new **CONFIDENCE** in the King.

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men” Colossians 3:23

*“So many of the problems we confront in the workplace boil down to issues of self-worth and confidence.”
 –Sebastian Traeger and Greg Gilbert, The Gospel at Work*

- You have a new **REWARD** from the King.

“knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance.” Colossians 3:24a

What are you and I working for?

What can hinder or obstruct us from getting that which we have worked so hard?

1Peter 1:3-7; Matthew 6:19-21

*“For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done,
 and that without partiality.” Colossians 3:25*

*“knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord,
 whether slave or free.” Ephesians 6:8*

2. In Christ You Are New Creation with a New Job, Just Ask **PHILEMON!**

Working for the King really does *change everything*, just ask the Onesimus the Slave and His Master Philemon!

As a NEW CREATION in Christ ONESIMUS Went from Being USELESS to USEFUL!		
NEW CREATION	BEFORE Christ: “Useless” to Both His Earthly Master and Jesus, the Ultimate Master and King in Heaven and on Earth!	AFTER Christ: “USEFUL” to Jesus the Ultimate Master, Paul the Apostle in Prison, and Now His Earthly Master, Philemon!
NEW MASTER	His earthly master, Philemon, was saved but still very human and still able to sin and fall short as a master.	His heavenly Master is now King Jesus who graciously rules over both him <i>and</i> his earthly master, Philemon!
NEW ASSIGNMENT	Served Philemon and his household, which seemed limiting, lowly, and less than perfect – <i>ate his bread but also thorns!</i>	Served the living God and His Household as he served Philemon and his household, enjoying the security, status, and significance of being a Son of God, co-heir with Christ, and useful to Paul on mission– <i>ate his bread, still had thorns, but also the joy of the Lord!</i>
NEW CONFIDENCE	Ran away to make a new life with stolen property? To better himself? To be set himself free from slavery? To find fulfillment in worldly Rome?	Returned to face the consequences of his own choices! To be a slave who was now free in Christ! To serve a master who was now his brother! (even an unsaved master would be made in God’s image!)
NEW REWARD	May have felt unappreciated, unrewarded, or unworthy?	Now he lived up to his name; he was <i>USEFUL</i> and <i>PROFITABLE</i> to King Jesus, the Apostle Paul, Philemon, the church that met in Philemon’s household, and to us!

You’re a New Creation in Christ with a New Job: Christ is the Master you must now serve with sincerity of heart!
Worship while you work this week!