

# The Gospel Driven Life

## Worship While You Work

1. Intro: People tend to compartmentalize their lives
  - a. The gospel should overflow into every area of who we are
  - b. 1 Timothy summary
  - c. Paul is concerned w/ our behavior in the church, but what about the workplace?
    - i. Generations see varying views on work... work to live, live to work
  - d. How should we view work?
2. *[1] Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor [complete respect], so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled [discredited]. [2] Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved.*
  - a. Bondservant = one who sells himself into slavery; under yoke = bad master
    - i. Lowest caste in society → new identity in Christ, but old world order
    - ii. Made up 1/3 of the population → Not same as our slavery...
    - iii. Some would be tempted to not work very hard b/c they had new standing
      1. Now they have a sense of worth b/c of the gospel, so they might be tempted to think that the work was beneath them
        - a. Remember: No such thing as work that's too menial - 100% an issue of perspective
    - iv. Paul: "Slave, respect your master or you undermine the gospel."
  - b. No matter how bad your job (or your boss) is, they are worthy of the utmost respect from you - even if you're a bondservant.
    - i. I don't care how bad you think you have it. Respect your boss.
    - ii. "Pastor Bill, you don't know how bad I have it..." #FirstWorldProblems
    - iii. Ex: Story from childhood, "You don't know what he makes me do!!!"
      1. Important lesson: You get paid to work. Suck it up and work hard.
    - iv. But listen: You are in the USA, you can quit (quit well...) if you want to
  - c. Otherwise (if you disrespect your employer), you shame the name (reputation) of God and you discredit the teaching of the Bible.
    - i. How? By being a hypocrite and not really believing the Bible.
      1. God puts people in authority over you
      2. He determines your domain (c.f. John 3)
      3. "This job has no eternal value." Yes it does...
  - d. The point is this: As you respect your boss, you are making God big
    - i. You believe his words, you respect God, you therefore respect your boss
    - ii. By respecting your boss, you **worship while you work**.
      1. Suddenly what seemed meaningless becomes meaningful

- e. Also, don't show your boss less respect just because he is a believer, on the other hand show him all the more respect b/c you want him to succeed
    - i. ex: Gina's graduate class and plagiarism
    - ii. ex: Seminary and students using every reason to be late w/ work
    - iii. Don't use Christianity as an excuse to perpetually drop the ball.
  - f. The primary way we show respect to our boss is by working hard w/ right attitude
    - i. We were created to work hard.**
    - ii. Working hard doesn't equal bare minimum - it means doing your best
      - 1. Ex: Dr. Sims, gave C for good work (contrary to our culture now)
  - g. It's easy to say, "I will work hard and take things seriously when I like my job, when I have a different boss, or when I am doing what I love..."
    - i. Yes, there are some things I would rather do than others
      - 1. I don't like doing administrative paperwork, but I have to
    - ii. And there are some things you won't be good at
      - 1. Don't ask me to paint your portrait or build you a house.
    - iii. But don't wait to be in the right place at the right time before you strive to be the right person
  - iv. Be the right person no matter where you are and who you work for.**
  - h. If you work hard, regardless of your job, then you honor, worship God
    - i. **God is honored by hard work**, it is worshipful to him
    - ii. Hard work makes your God big b/c he shines through your character
    - iii. Lazy work makes your God small b/c you come across as a hypocrite
  - i. By working hard, you **worship while you work.**
3. We were created to work hard, but we were also created to rest.
  - a. Some of you don't worship while you work. You worship your work.**
  - i. Explain what this looks like.
  - b. Work hard, yes, but find your identity and value in God not in your successes
    - i. ex: Teresa overhearing co-worker brag about missing birthday party
  - c. God created the earth in 6 days and on the 7 day he rested, took a sabbath
    - i. God created the sabbath for mankind - he knew we needed to rest
  - d. When we don't rest, everything gets messed up...
  - e. Worship while you work. Don't worship your work.**
4. Conclusion - So. Work is good. Work is from God. Work hard. This is worshipful.
  - a. Worship while you work.**
  - b. Let's summarize how and introduce a few more ideas using this summary verse:
    - i. *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men"*  
(Colossians 3:23)
  - c. Worship while you work: Respect your boss.**
  - i. Self evaluation:
    - 1. Do you talk about your boss behind his/her back?
    - 2. Do you slander your employer (or clients)?
    - 3. Do you question every decision they make or do you listen?

4. Do you respect their position even if you don't respect their person?

ii. Pretend you are working for God, because you are.

**d. Worship while you work: Work hard.**

i. Self evaluation:

1. Do you do work while you are at work or do you do other things?
2. Do you do the bare minimum?
3. When you run out of tasks, do you look for things to do?
4. Do you manage your time while at work?
5. Would you hire you?

ii. Work heartily, as if God told you to do that job b/c he did.

**e. Worship while you work. Don't worship your work..**

i. Self evaluation:

1. Do you take one full day off a week and one week off a year?
2. Do you work to live or live to work?
3. Would you lose all value in your eyes if you couldn't do your job anymore? (car accident, debilitating disease, got fired, bankrupt)
4. Are you always on edge, worn out, stressed, agitated?

ii. Rest well because God created rest for you to maintain healthy rhythms.

iii. Don't worship your work, worship God while you work.

**f. Worship while you work. Hear, Embrace, and Live the Good News.**

i. Self evaluation:

1. Are you a different person at work than you are here at Revolve?
2. Do you view your circle of "where you work" as completely separated from "where you live" and "where you play"?
3. If we all came with you to work this week, would you be ashamed? Embarrassed? Work harder than normal? More faithful?

ii. Don't compartmentalize your life. The gospel should invade every area.

**iii. God cares how hard you work. God cares what you do at work. God wants to bring the gospel to YOUR work through YOU!**

iv. I've been praying all week that God would prompt a handful of you to take this one step further and pray about leading a Bible Study with people from your work. Just make sure not to do it when you should be working...

1. What a beautiful way to worship at your work.

v. For others, it is about how to weave the gospel into your work (not all vocations make this a possibility)

1. A true manifestation of our woven philosophy of ministry  
a. Ex: David and his art

g. Want to live a Gospel-driven, centered life?

i. It's not just what you do at church - it's also about your work.

**h. Worship while you work.**