

Five Qualities of a Marketplace Missionary

At work, who is your supervisor? Is it difficult to submit to him/her?

Who do you supervise? Are they difficult to lead or motivate?

What comes to mind when you think about slavery? The Bible doesn't condone slavery. It does speak to the reality that throughout history, the workplace is a testing ground for genuine Christianity. If the first century Christian slaves and masters were called to display Christian character in the marketplace, what should be our response?

1) Obedience (v.5)

Servants – To what degree would your boss say that you carry out your responsibilities?

Masters – Is there any area where you are cutting corners ethically? Do you obey tax laws? Does your business fulfill legal requirements? Are you willing to compromise your integrity to make a greater profit?

2) Sincerity (v.5-6)

Servants – Do you know the mission statement of the company you work for? Do you have a “heart” for the work you do? Do you go to work with a purpose bigger than making money?

Do you work as hard when your boss is not watching as you do when he is?

Are you a “people pleaser” at work? Are you looking to your supervisor to supply significance and affirmation that only God can provide? Are you devastated when your boss criticizes or even fires you? Where does one get a significance that transcends the workplace?

Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. How does your work benefit the welfare of your city/community?

Masters – Do you have a heart for your employees? Do you know what is going on in their lives and families outside the workplace?

Does your employee consider you to be sincere, authentic, and real?

3) Verticality (v.6)

Servants - How would it change your attitude toward work if you ended everyday with this prayer, “God, were you pleased with my performance today?”

Do you see you work as the will of the God?

Do you go to work without purpose or does God sent you to work on a mission?

How would you work if you really believed Jesus was your boss?

Masters – What is the purpose of your company? Business owners, do you view one of the purposes of your business to fund ministry, discipleship, and church planting?

4) Service (v.7)

Servants - Have you adopted as your own the wishes and goals of those you are serving? How are you serving those above and beside you?

Masters – Do your customers consider your company a place with exceptional customer service?

Do you think you are better, more important, or more valuable than your employees? How do you serve them?

Is your company a place where employees desire to work?

5) Hope (v.8)

Servants – Are you motivated by what you will receive back from the Lord one day? What have you given to your boss that you will receive back from the Lord?

Masters – Does it worry you that God will hold you accountable for the way you have treated your employees?

How often do you resort to threatening as a tool to motivate your employees?

Additional Scripture

- Galatians 1:10
- 1Peter 2:13-21
- Colossians 3:22
- 1Tim. 6:1
- Titus 2:9