

The Christian Work Ethic

June 26th, 2011

Christian Ethics - The Christ principle of honor and action and of God-worshiping manner and behavior

And **whatsoever you do** in word or deed, **do all** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him . . . And **whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord**, and not unto men

Colossians 3:17, 23

In all thy ways acknowledge him . . .

Proverbs 3:6

Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or **whatsoever you do**, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

The Three Works

1. Our daily physical labor for bread

If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

2 Thessalonians 3:10

2. Our daily believing work for God's glory

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that you believe on him whom he hath sent.

John 6:29

3. God's Work for us, in us, and through us

God Works

And on the seventh day God ended **his work** which he had made;
and he rested on the seventh day from all **his work** which he had made.

Genesis 2:2

His work is perfect . . .

Deuteronomy 32:4

His work is honorable and glorious . . .

Psalm 111:3

Does God have an *Ethic* by which He works?

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: **hath he said, and shall he not do it?** or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Numbers 23:19

The 11 Ethics of Godly Work

1. If He starts a work, He finishes it

There is no cessation, no miscarriage, no abortion, and no abandonment of His work

Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath
begun** a good work in you **will perform it
until the day** of Jesus Christ:

Philippians 1:6

Jesus saith unto them, My meat **is to . . . finish his work.**

John 4:34

2. He does His work with Joy

. . . in thy presence is fulness of joy . . .

Psalm 16:11

These things have I spoken unto you, that **my joy** might remain in you,
and that your joy might be full.

John 15:11

And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they
might have **my joy fulfilled in them.**

John 17:13

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who **for the joy that was set before him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

Whom having not seen, ye love; **in whom**, though now you see him not, yet believing, **you rejoice with joy unspeakable** and full of glory:

1 Peter 1:8

3. **He is compliant and submissive to His Boss, accepting the most difficult tasks without question**

Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

John 12:27

I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Psalms 40:8

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is **to do the will of him that sent me**, and to finish his work.

John 4:34

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because **I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father** which hath sent me.

John 5:30

For I came down from heaven, **not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.**

John 6:38

4. He stays alert, focused, and on task - sober-minded always. He does not grow tired or weary

And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, **could ye not watch with me** one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Matthew 26:40-41

Watchful and Alert

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

1 Peter 5:8

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but **let us watch and be sober.**

1 Thessalonians 5:6

Tireless and Unflagging

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:9

But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

2nd Thessalonians 3:13

And he spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Luke 18:1

Pray without ceasing.

1st Thessalonians 5:17

5. He Controls His Tongue

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.

Isaiah 53:7

If any man among you seem to be religious, and **bridles not his tongue**, but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

James 1:26

6. He seeks another's wealth. He works not for applause, notoriety, and/or promotion. He treats others as more important than Himself.

Laboring for another's profit

Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth . . . Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

1 Corinthians 10:24,33

Love . . . seeks not her own . . .

1 Corinthians 13:5

A footwisher - a servant of others

For though I be free from all men, yet have **I made myself servant unto all**, that I might gain the more.

1 Corinthians 9:19

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also **on the things of others**. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus . . . (Who) made himself of no reputation, and took upon him **the form of a servant . . .**

Philippians 2:4-5,7

7. He ceases labor and rests only at the appropriate time

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

Genesis 2:1-2

Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

Luke 8:22-25

And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Matthew 26:40-41

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Matthew 28:1

8. He does His work right. He does everything with unparalleled excellence. He is the best in His field

What of His Creation work? . . .

It was good . . . it was good . . . it was good . . . it was good . . . it was good . . . it was good . . . and God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

Genesis 1:4,10,12,18,21,25,31

And **whatsoever you do** in word or deed, **do all** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Colossians 3:17

And **in every work that he** (Hezekiah) **began** in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, **he did it with all his heart**, and prospered.

2 Chronicles 31:21

9. He is marked by perfect integrity - without spot or blemish

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: **hath he said, and shall he not do it?** or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Numbers 23:19

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things . . . But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb **without blemish and without spot:**

1 Peter 1:18-19

10. He is persistent and will overcome every obstacle in order to complete the job

Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.

Matthew 15:28

And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet **because of his importunity** he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, **Ask**, and it shall be

given you; **seek**, and ye shall find; **knock**, and it shall be opened unto you.

Luke 11:5-9

11. He gives attention to detail, noticing the small things.

. . . The cause which I knew not I searched out.

Job 29:16

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save **that which was lost**.

Luke 19:10

How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeks **that which is gone astray**? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoices more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.

Matthew 18:12-13

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, In as much as ye have done it **unto one of the least of these** my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:40

Disorder in Thessalonica

But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks **disorderly** and not

according to the tradition which he received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for **we were not disorderly among you**; nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, **but worked with labor and toil night and day**, that we might not be a burden to any of you, not because we do not have authority, but **to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us**. For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: **If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat**. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in **a disorderly manner, not working at all**, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good. And **if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him**, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

A Message to Garcia

by Elbert Hubbard

The historical setting of the essay was the onset of the Spanish-American War in 1898. As the American army prepared to invade the Spanish colony of Cuba, they wished to contact the leader of the Cuban insurgents, Calixto Iñiguez Garcia, who controlled the plains of the Cauto and sought the help of the United States in overcoming the Spanish hold over Cuba. The American officer heralded in the essay

was Andrew Summers Rowan, a West Point graduate of 1881. The essay celebrates the initiative of Rowan, who is assigned and accomplishes a daunting mission. He asks no questions, makes no objections, requests no help, but accomplishes the mission nonetheless. Rowan, in many ways, is a poignant picture of what has gone missing in the worth ethic of the modern laborer.

Introducing the World's Worst Work Force

The Slacker

Job Description: Dig this Hole

The Slacker asks, "when is the drop dead date for the hole to be dug?" And even though he has nothing else to work on, he will not get to digging the hole until the last possible minute. And, undoubtedly The Slacker will be late in getting his final shovel-fulls out of the hole. The Slacker does not work with either excellence or timeliness, for he has trained himself to give the least amount of labor possible into a job and to always start working at the point when there is no more excess time allowed for delays, oversights, or flubs.

The Butterfly (aka The Flitter)

Job Description: Deliver this Pizza

The Butterfly has everything else on his mind but the job at hand. He flits. The Butterfly is interested in being cool, far more than he is in getting the job done right. During the staff meeting, he is texting his girlfriend about how much he hates his job while the Boss is describing the new rules for delivering the pizzas. When he is delivering pizzas, he's on his cellphone with his buddy, while his manager attempts to call him to void a delivery. The Butterfly is nothing more than a colorful nuisance. He is absent-minded, distracted, and otherwise checked-out and thusly constantly demonstrating disrespect to those who are employing him.

The Complainer (The thumb banger)

Job Description: Hang this Picture

The Complainer doesn't struggle with willingness. He struggles, rather, with attitude. As long as everything goes smoothly with the picture hanging, then everything is wonderful. But, if, it so happens that the stud finder batteries run out, the drill's chuck key goes missing, the dry wall screws are nowhere to be found, or the picture ends up being crooked - all goes south. For The Complainer is a red-faced griper, always ready for a good juicy grumble. He is rife with a short fuse. He has a penchant for frustration, and an amazing knack for finding opportunity for irritation in every little challenge presented.

The Poor Victim

Job Description: Change this lightbulb

The Victim turns everything into a sad story. No matter what happens, no matter if the light bulb is easy to fix or hard, and no matter if it is 60, 75, or 100 watts - The Victim is somehow, someway, always "the victim." Every job is a burden, every request is unjust, and every command is too harsh. Even the easiest jobs turn into soap operas and yet another sad story that can be pulled out someday in the future, with a phrase like, "Let me tell you of the time my boss tried to purposely kill me by giving me a 100 watt light bulb to stick in a 60 watt fixture!"

The Mediocre

Job Description: Clean the Kitchen

The Mediocre has a motto: *Always do the bare-minimum and no more than that.* Cut corners on the job - do just enough to make it look "good enough" on the outside even if it falls apart fifteen years earlier than it should. Buy the cheapest materials, hire the cheapest labor - the goal is to get the job done, not do a good job. In cleaning the kitchen, he doesn't add spit and polish to the fixtures, he doesn't clean under the bread box, he doesn't make sure the glasses are polished up right - he only wants the job to be done. The Mediocre is not a true worker, because in his heart he hates work. He only does work because he's more afraid of the consequences of not working than he is of the work itself.

The Dozer

Job Description: Night Watchmen at the Bank

The Dozer seems to have one thing on his mind. Dozing. He lives with ten pound weights tied to his eyelids. There is a heaviness in his eyes and it never seems to go away. There is a blur, a cloud in his thinking. He is nearly incapable of seeing what needs to be done and responding to it without intense prodding and threats of job loss. If you were inclined to rob a bank, his would be the bank you would want to rob, for he is certainly not going to be alert enough to see you on the surveillance cameras.

The Litigation Lawyer (aka *The Man of 1000 Excuses*)

Job Description: Shovel the walk

The Litigation Lawyer is full of every conceivable argument for why he isn't the one to do the job. Supposedly, this poor guy twisted his ankle last month and its still a bit sensitive to snow boots, his brother is getting married next week and he needs to write up a speech for the reception, his version of the Christian religion doesn't allow for any "works" of this sort whatsoever, and he didn't get a wink of sleep last night and it would be a surely be a liability risk for him to be out on the ice so early in the morning. The Litigation Lawyer is always looking for the loophole in the system, anyway he possibly can to avoid any real world work.

The Opera Singer (Me Me Me)

Job Description: Clean the Toilets

The Opera Singer is all about "me me me." If it doesn't benefit him, then there is absolutely no interest and no energy supplied to the task. This guy has one singular question on his lips, and that's, "What's in this for me?" If he doesn't get stock in the company and increased benefits, then he's not cleaning that toilet. This guy is a self-proclaimed celebrity. The world revolves around him. And if he doesn't get a big fat bonus then he's not getting down on his hands and knees to clean a toilet. Good luck getting this guy to work. He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth and he expects everyone to do his bidding.

The Uncertain (aka *The Man of 1000 Questions*)

Job Description: File these papers

Our hearts go out to The Uncertain. This guy has no confidence in his ability to get the job done. He has not a scrap of risk-taking moxie; not a speck of initiative in his briefcase. So, he asks questions to his superior all day long everyday. And not just a few questions, but thousands of questions. Small questions, medium sized questions, and big questions. Questions, questions, questions. And, suddenly, a filing job that should have taken fifteen minutes of the Uncertain's time, now takes five hours of both the superior's time and the Uncertain's time. Of course, asking proper questions is a virtue in getting a job done well, but this is something altogether different than a virtue. These are questions asked out of the fear of failing, the fear of not doing something perfectly, the fear of bumbling. The Uncertain needs some guts to actually grow up and get the job done even if he doesn't do it perfectly the first, second, or even third time.

The Abortionist

Job Description: Write this article

The Abortionist is one who can't seem to ever finish a project. They promise, they reassure, and they get upset that people don't believe them when they once again promise that the job WILL get done. But, even after all their assurances, in the end the project still lies unfinished. The Abortionist specializes in unfinished business. It's not really that they kill the process through poor workmanship, but rather, they terminate the project through lack of follow-through. They may mean well, but they can't seem to ever get the job done. Don't get me wrong, they do get some things done. But the lion's share of their promises go unmet. They lion's share of their projects are miscarried through lack of remembrance and follow-through. The Abortionist over-promises and inevitably under-delivers.

The 11 Ethics of the Christian Soul

1. If God starts a work within us, we must remain confident He will finish it
2. We labor in His Kingdom with joy for every task - big or small, easy or hard, paid or unpaid, whether for applause or derision, and whether unto life or unto death
3. We are compliant and submissive to The Word of God and to the leading of the Spirit of Christ Jesus, and we accept the most difficult tasks without question

4. We stay alert, focused, and on task - sober-minded always. We do not grow tired or weary and we give no space to lethargy in our souls
5. We control our tongue, only speaking that which edifies others and that which glorifies our King
6. We seek the spiritual and practical profit of those about us. We work not for applause, notoriety, and/or promotion. We treat others as more important than ourselves
7. We cease from labor and enter into rest at God's bidding, and are always willing to sit at His feet, as Mary, and listen to His Word even if everyone around us is bustling about and busy
8. We must do our work (our study, our spiritual preparation, our praying, our serving, our preaching, our evangelizing, etc.) with excellence and do everything as an act of thanksgiving unto our King
9. We must be marked by perfect integrity - without spot or blemish in our conscience, in our behavior, in our attitudes, or in our actions
10. We must be persistent in faith until the realities of heaven have reached this earth and transcended this natural realm
11. We must not overlook the small things, but rather give special attention to the little people about us

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:1-2