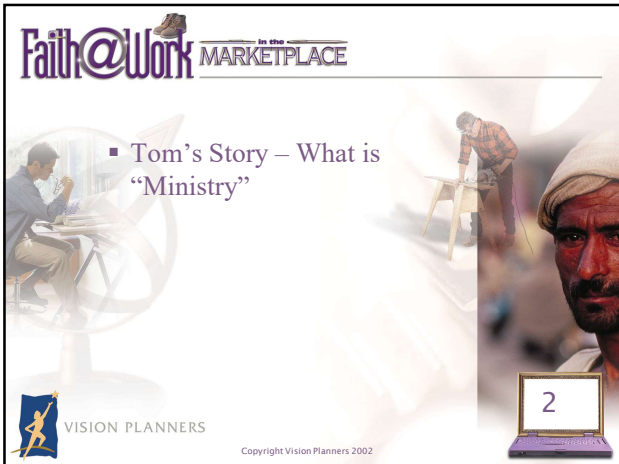
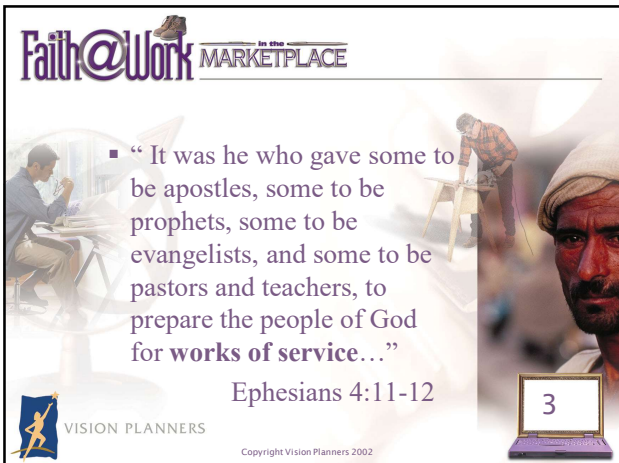




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Image of God & Cultural Mandate

- **The creation mandate - Genesis 1:26-31, 2:8,15**
“fill, be productive and subdue...”
- **The fall - Genesis 3:16-19** “...thorns & thistles...
increase pain in childbearing ...sweat of your brow...”
- **The remaining hope - Romans 8:18-25** “creation
waits in expectation for sons of God...to liberate (it)...”
 - Redemption of Creation
 - Redemption of Souls

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Image of God & Cultural Mandate

- **The creation mandate - Genesis 1:26-31, 2:8,15**
“be productive, fill and subdue...”
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- ▶ A Paradigm Shift:
- ▶ Leading Church Members vs Leading Image Bearers who happen to be church members.

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"In nothing has the Church so lost Her hold on reality as in her failure to understand and respect the secular vocation. She has allowed work and religion to become separate departments, and is astonished to find that, as a result, the secular work of the world is turned to purely selfish and destructive ends; that the greater part of the world's intelligent workers have become irreligious, or at least, uninterested in religion. But is it astonishing? How can one remain interested in a religion that seems to have no concern with nine-tenths of his life? The churches approach to an intelligent carpenter is usually confined to exhorting him not to be drunk and disorderly in his leisure hours, and to come to church on Sundays. What the church should be telling him is this: that the very first demand his religion makes upon him is that he should make good tables."

Dorothy Sayers *Creed or Chaos?*

Sayers, *Creed or Chaos?*, 106.

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- ▶ Practical Atheists
- ▶ Church Centric Spirituality
- ▶ Sacred/Secular Mindset
- ▶ Irrelevance
- ▶ Purposelessness

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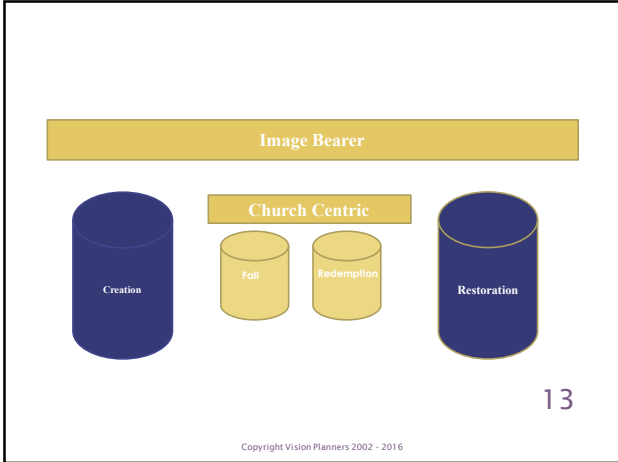
- ▶ Universal Pagan View
- ▶ Platonism
- ▶ Christo-Platonism - Plotinus
 - i. Clement of Alexandria – Allegorical Interpretation
 - ii. Philo
 - 1. Allegorical Senses Body Soul Spirit
- ▶ Accommodationists
- ▶ Annihilationist
- ▶ Vita Contemplative – Vita Activa
- ▶ Heaven

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- Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

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- ▶ Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do "ergo is agathois", which God prepared in advance for us to do.

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▶ 11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for “**ergon diakonias**”, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

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▪ **Jesus example:**

- Jesus spent the first 30 years of his life in the world of work
- 45/52 parables are cast in the context of work - 87%
- 122 of 132 appearances of Jesus are in the workplace - 92%
- Matt 7:29 “..he taught as one who had authority”
- “containing the highest human wisdom” John A. Broadus Commentary on Matthew

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▪ **Who did Jesus choose as leaders of his movement?**

- Simon – Peter
- James/John sons of Zebedee
- Andrew
- Phillip
- Bartholomew
- Matthew
- Thomas
- James son of Alphaeus
- Thaddeus
- Simon the zealot
- Judas Iscariot

“None of the twelve was a member of the professional clergy or a leader in the synagogue”
Ed Silvano Anointed for Business

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- Paul's example:
 - 1 Corinthians 4:14-16 "imitate me"
 - Acts 20:17-35 "these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions"
 - Acts 18:1-5 "he was a tentmaker as they were"
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:6-10 "we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached..."
 - 1 Corinthians 9:1-18 "I would rather die..."

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- Heroes of the Faith - Hebrews 11
 - Abel
 - Enoch
 - Noah
 - Abraham
 - Isaac
 - Jacob
 - Sarah
 - Joseph
 - Moses
 - Rahab
 - Gideon
 - Barak
 - Samson
 - Jephthah
 - David
 - Samuel
 - Not one was a "full time Christian worker" and with the exception of Samuel not one held an official ministry position

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- "It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare the people of God for works of service..."

Ephesians 4:11-12

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Faith@Work in the **MARKETPLACE** **Principles**

- Our work is dignified and given eternal value by God's calling
- Work is where God's calling meets our design
- God's calling is seamless thru church, work and play
- Productivity is important since our work has unique eternal value
- Faithful work brings blessing which is given to serve God's calling not our pleasure
- Since our work is where we live out God's calling it is important that we not compromise

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Called to work

- **Work is God's calling for each believer:**
 - **Romans 1:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1-2** "called..."
 - **Hebrews 2:17-3:6** "share in the heavenly calling...just as Moses"
 - **1 Corinthians 1:26-31** "Think of what you were when you were called...not many were wise...influential..."
 - **Exodus 31:1-3** "I have called Bezalel...and filled him with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts..."
 - **1 Corinthians 7:17-24** "each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him."
 - **Ephesians 4:1-3** "live a life worthy of the calling you have received"

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Called to work

Four reasons work can be called Godlike:

1. **God is a worker Psalm 104:**
 - 5 Construction
 - 6 Plumbing
 - 7-9 Irrigation
 - 10-13 Distribution
 - 14 Farming
 - 15 Winemaking, Cosmetics, Baker
 - 16-18 Lumberjack conservationist
 - 19 Meteorologist
2. **God's job description - Colossians 1:15-17**
 - "In Him all things hold together"

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Four reasons work can be called Godlike:

3. We were created as workers: Genesis 1:26-28 “very good”
4. We are commissioned as God’s co-workers:
 - Genesis 2:8-15 “ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to *work it and to take care of it.*”
 - Psalm 8:1-9 “Oh Lord...how majestic is your name in all the earth...what is man that you are mindful of him... You crowned him with *glory and honor* ...you made him ruler over the works of your hands”

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Faith@Work in the MARKETPLACE **Principles**

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Principles

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➔ **Image of God & Cultural Mandate**

- **The image of God:**
 - Genesis 1:26-28
 - Genesis 9:5-7
 - Romans 8:28-30
 - 1 Corinthians 11:7
 - 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - Ephesians 4:20-24
 - Colossians 3:9-10
 - James 3:9
- **The image bearer should:**
 - Be productive, fill & subdue (maintain & cultivate) the earth to reflect the glory of God by using *his unique gifts* and talents *to extract* that which was implanted at creation and is being renewed through collaboration of God with his co-worker the **image bearer**.

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➔ **Image of God & Cultural Mandate**

- What is *my* part in this?
- Four Characteristics of a Calling:
 - Each calling is unique
 - A calling requires a precondition – talent, passion
 - A calling reveals its presence by the enjoyment and sense of renewed energies its practice yields
 - A calling is not easy to discover
 - Michael Novak Business as a Calling

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➔ **Image of God & Cultural Mandate**

What is my part in this?

Adapted from Good to Great by Jim Collins

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Image of God & Cultural Mandate

What is my part in this?

1 Corinthians 12:4-8

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Kingdom Purpose Categories

- Overcome the Curse
- Extract Potential from Creation
- Cause God's World to Flourish
- Make Jesus attractive
- Create Culture
- Live on Earth as it will be in Heaven

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Image of God & Cultural Mandate

- What is *my* part in this?
- The "Body of Christ"
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 "If the whole body were an eye where would the sense of hearing be?...But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body *every one of them* just as he wanted them to be."
 - Ephesians 1:22-23 "...the church, which is His body, *the fullness of Him* who fills everything in every way."

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Instruction to Employees



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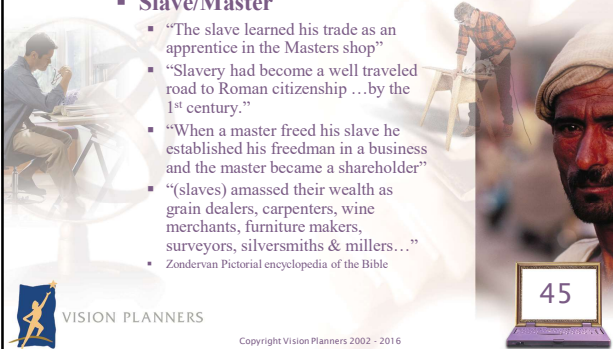
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Instruction to Employees

▪ **Slave/Master**

- "The slave learned his trade as an apprentice in the Masters shop"
- "Slavery had become a well traveled road to Roman citizenship ... by the 1st century."
- "When a master freed his slave he established his freedman in a business and the master became a shareholder"
- "(slaves) amassed their wealth as grain dealers, carpenters, wine merchants, furniture makers, surveyors, silversmiths & millers..."
- Zondervan Pictorial encyclopedia of the Bible



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☛ **Instruction to Employees**

In accepting a wage the Christian worker agrees:

- To produce as much or more than he earns:
- To perform, if possible, all work assigned:
- To have a proper attitude to authority:
- To take initiative:
- To work with excellence:
- To work honestly:

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☛ **Instruction to Employees**

- **Because:**
 - Work is the best environment to practice the servanthood enjoined upon believers:
 - Our faithful work benefits others – especially believing employers:
 - Faithful work will be rewarded:
 - Unfaithful work will be punished:
 - Faithful work is the will of God – thru it we serve Christ:
 - Faithful work is a witness to the power of God:
 - The faithful worker can help those less fortunate:

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☛ **Instruction to Employers**

- **Our God expects the employer to:**
 - Treat employees as Jesus himself:
 - Pay agreed upon wages in a timely fashion:
 - Treat his employees with justice and fairness:
 - Listen to his employees reasonable complaints:
 - Pay a wage roughly equal to employees productivity:
 - Share the success of the corporation with employees:
 - Ensure the employee's personal and religious freedom:
 - Refuse to manage by fear:
 - Be honest:
 - Provide top quality goods and services:
 - Arrange deals so that all benefit:
 - Be open to audit:
 - Enter into and fulfill contracts:
 - Be involved in the community:

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← Importance of Productivity



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➔ **Importance of Productivity**

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➔ **Importance of Productivity**

▪ **Paul on productivity:**

- **Romans 12:1-2** “offer your bodies as living sacrifices”
- **1 Thessalonians 4:9-12** “make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands...so that you will not be dependent on anybody”
- **2 Thessalonians 3:6-15** “ If a man will not work, he shall not eat.”
- **Titus 3:14** “our people must *devote themselves* to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.”
- **Ephesians 4:28** “stop stealing...work...do something useful...”

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➔ **Importance of Productivity**

▪ **Consider Jesus contempt for unproductive things:**

- Salt & lamps – Matthew 5:13-16
- An empty – though tidy – room - Matthew 12:43-45
- Two sons – Mathew 21:28-32
- Pharisees - Matthew 23:1-39
- Unprepared Virgins – Matthew 25:1-13
- Talents - Matthew 25:14-30
- Sheep & Goats - Mathew 25:31-46
- Repentance without fruit - Luke 3:7-14
- Parable of ten minas – Luke 11-27
- Fig tree without figs - Luke 13:6-9, Mark 11:12-14,20-21
- Faith without works - James 2:17

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Coping With Success
• Understanding Wealth

Fruit of Labor...

A Test

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Faith@Work in the **MARKETPLACE**

Instruction to Employers

- Deuteronomy 28:1-14 "If you fully obey...all these blessings will come upon you...blessed in the city...country...womb...crops...livestock...defeat enemies...bless all the work of your hands...make you the head not the tail."
- Wall Street Journal research
ROOTED IN SOUND PRINCIPLES

GROW

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Coping With Success
• Understanding Wealth

- Wealth is a gift/reward from God:**
 - Genesis 24:34-35
 - Genesis 26:12-14
 - Deuteronomy 8:10-18
 - Joshua 22:6-9
 - 1 Samuel 2:1-11
 - 1 Chronicles 29:1-20
 - Psalms 112:1-10

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➔ **Coping With Success**
• Understanding Wealth


- **Wealth can be a fortress keeping us from God:**
 - **Isaiah 44:1-21** “he feeds on ashes...”
 - **Jeremiah 2:13** “My people have committed two sins. They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water”
 - **Matthew 13:22** “What was sown among the thorns is the man who hears the word but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it”
 - **Matthew 19:16-30, Jeremiah 9:23-24, Hosea 12:8, 1 Timothy 6:3-10, Revelation 3:14-18**



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➔ **Coping With Success**
• Understanding Wealth

- **2 Corinthians 9:10-11** “...you will be made rich in every way so that you *can be generous* on every occasion...”
- **Know how much is enough – Luke 12:13-21**
“The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself what shall I do? I have *no place* to store my crops. Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will *tear down my barns* and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat drink and be merry.’” But God said to him “You Fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?” This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich towards God.”

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Coping With Success
• Understanding Wealth

- **Avoiding compromise:**
 1. Understand your organizing principle
 2. Understand how God works in a life
 3. Build 3 faith disciplines

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Coping With Success
• Understanding Wealth

- **What is your Organizing principle?**
 - Cause
 - Pleasure/Beauty
 - Accomplishment
 - **Calling** - "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13

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➔ **Coping With Success**
• Understanding Wealth

- **Avoiding compromise:**
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➔ **Coping With Success**
• Understanding Wealth

The American Dream

Die

Born

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➔ **Coping With Success**
• Understanding Wealth

Joseph

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➤ **Coping With Success**
• Understanding Wealth

- Joseph
- Abraham
- Jacob
- Moses
- David
- Paul
- You?

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➤ **Coping With Success**
• Understanding Wealth

- **Avoiding compromise:**
 - Understand your organizing principle
 - Understand how God works in a life
 - Build 3 faith disciplines

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Faith@Work in the MARKETPLACE

➤ **Coping With Success**
• Disciplines to Keep Success in Perspective

- **The challenge of maintaining perspective:**
 - 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 "What I mean brothers is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live *as though* they had none; those who mourn, *as if* they did not; those who are happy, *as if* they were not; those who buy something, *as if* it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of this world, *as if* not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away"

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Coping With Success
 • Disciplines to Keep Success in Perspective

Resting

Giving

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Coping With Success
 • Disciplines to Keep Success in Perspective

1. Sabbath principle – you can not gain by effort what God does not choose to give you by grace.
2. Tithing principle-You can not gain by hoarding what God does not choose to give you by grace.
3. Gleaning Principle – You cannot reserve for yourself what God chooses to give to others, through you, by grace.

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☛ **Coping With Success**
 • Disciplines to Keep Success in Perspective

- (The faithful)... were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, **since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance **the race marked out for us**, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, **so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

Hebrews 11:39-12:3

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☛ **Called to work**

Application



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☛ **Instruction to Employees**

- **Appendix:**

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☛ **Instruction to Employees**

- **Two essential concepts for employees to grasp:**
 - **Private property**
 - Matthew 20:1-15 “Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money?”
 - Acts 4:32-5:11 “...after it was sold wasn’t the money at your disposal...”
 - **Contentment**
 - Philippians 4:10-13 “I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances...”

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☛ **Instruction to Employees**

In accepting a wage the Christian worker agrees:

- **To produce as much or more than he earns**
 - Matthew 10:10 “...the worker is worth his keep.”
- **To perform, if possible, all work assigned**
 - Ephesians 6:5-8 “slaves obey your masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.”

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☛ **Instruction to Employees**

In accepting a wage the Christian worker agrees:

- **To have a proper attitude to authority:**
 - 1 Timothy 6:1-2 “...consider masters worthy of full respect, so that God’s name and our teaching may not be slandered.”
 - 1 Peter 2:18 “slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect not only to those who are good and considerate but also to those who are harsh.”
- **To take initiative:**
 - Luke 12:35-48 (Matthew 24:45-51) - parable of the wise steward
 - Matthew 25:14-30 – parable of the talents

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☛ **Instruction to Employees**

- **In accepting a wage the Christian worker agrees:**
 - **To work with excellence:**
 - Colossians 3:22-25 “Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”
 - **To work honestly:**
 - 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 “It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”
 - Titus 2:9-10 “Teach slaves...not to steal (from their masters).”
 - Luke 3:7-14 “don’t extort money...don’t collect more than required...”

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☛ **Instruction to Employees**

- **Because:**
 - **Work is the best environment to practice the servanthood enjoined upon believers:**
 - Luke 17:7-10 “So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”
 - **Our faithful work benefits others – especially believing employers**
 - 1 Timothy 6:1-2 “Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them...instead, they are to serve them even better, because those who benefit from their service are believers.”

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☛ **Instruction to Employees**

- **Because:**
 - **Faithful work will be rewarded:**
 - By our employer:
 - Luke 12:37, 43-44
 - Matthew 25:14-30
 - By our God:
 - Ephesians 6:5-8
 - Colossians 3:22-25
 - **Unfaithful work will be punished:**
 - Colossians 3:22-25 “anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong.”

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☛ **Instruction to Employees**

▪ **Because:**

- **Faithful work is the will of God – thru it we serve Christ:**
 - Ephesians 6:5-8 "...as if you were serving the Lord.
 - Colossians 3:22-25 "It is the Lord Christ you are serving."
- **Faithful work is a witness to the power of God:**
 - Matthew 5:13-16 "salt of the earth...light of the world."
 - 1 Timothy 6:1-2 "...so that God's name *not* be slandered."
 - Titus 2:9-10 "...they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive."

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☛ **Instruction to Employees**

▪ **Because:**

- **The faithful worker can help those less fortunate:**
 - Ephesians 4:28 "...he must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need."
 - Matthew 25 "I was hungry... I was thirsty... I was a stranger... I was sick... I was in prison..."

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☛ **Instruction to Employers**

▪ **Our God expects the employer to:**

- **Treat employees as Jesus himself:**
 - Ephesians 6:5-9 "Masters treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that He who is both their master and yours is In heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him."
- **Pay agreed upon wages in a timely fashion:**
 - Leviticus 19:13
 - Deuteronomy 24:14-15
 - Jeremiah 22:13-14
 - Malachi 3:5
 - James 5:1-5

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☛ **Instruction to Employers**

- **Our God expects the employer to:**
 - **Treat his employees with justice and fairness:**
 - Colossians 3:22-4:1 “Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a master in heaven.”
 - **Listen to his employees reasonable complaints:**
 - Job 31:13-15, Luke 18:1-8
 - **Pay a wage roughly equal to employees productivity:**
 - Matthew 10:10, Luke 10:7 “worker is worthy of his keep.”
 - Matthew 20:1-16 “I want to give the man hired last the same as you...because I am generous.”


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☛ **Instruction to Employers**

- **Our God expects the employer to:**
 - **Share the success of the corporation with employees:**
 - 1 Corinthians 9:9-10 “when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.”
 - Deuteronomy 15:12-18 “when you release a slave...give to him as the Lord your God has blessed you.”
 - Matthew 24:45-47 (Luke 12:35-48) “It will be good for that (faithful) servant...”
 - **Ensure the employee’s personal and religious freedom:**
 - Exodus 20:10-11”On the Sabbath you shall do no work...nor your servant...”
 - **Refuse to manage by fear:**
 - Ephesians 6:9 “...Do not threaten them...”


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☛ **Instruction to Employers**

- **The public can expect the employer to:**
 - **Be honest:**
 - Leviticus 19:35-37 “Use honest scales and honest weights...”
 - Proverbs 11:1 “The Lord abhors dishonest scales...”
 - Genesis 23:1-20 – within accepted cultural norms
 - **Provide top quality goods and services:**
 - Amos 8:4-7 “...skimping the measure, boosting the price, cheating with dishonest scales...selling even the sweepings with the wheat.”
 - Deuteronomy 25:13”The Lord God detests anyone...who deals dishonestly.”



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☛ **Instruction to Employers**

- **The public can expect the employer to:**
 - **Arrange deals so that all benefit:**
 - Exodus 22:25-27 "If you take a cloak...return it by evening"
 - Deuteronomy 24:6, 10-13 "don't take a man's livelihood as security"
 - **Be open to audit:**
 - Ezra 1:7-11
 - Ezra 8:24-34
 - **Enter into and fulfill contracts:**
 - Genesis 23:1-20

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☛ **Instruction to Employers**

- **The public can expect the employer to:**
 - **Be involved in the community:**
 - Support the ministers of the Gospel – Acts 16:13-15
 - Helping the less fortunate – Luke 10:25-37, 16:19-31
 - Public works – Luke 7:1-10
 - Feasts & Weddings – Luke 14:15-24, Matthew 22:1-14
 - Know how much is enough – Luke 12:13-21

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☛ **Instruction to Employers**

- **Employers generally receive greater returns since:**
 - **They take greater risk:**
 - Matthew 13:44-46 "When a man found the treasure...he hid it again...and went and bought the field."
 - **They provide the capital:**
 - Luke 19:12-26 "he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work', he said, 'until I come back.'"
 - Matthew 25:14-30 "he called his servants and entrusted his property to them."

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☛ **Instruction to Employers**

▪ **Employers generally receive greater returns since:**

- **They bear the burden of planning:**
 - Luke 14:28-32 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost..."
 - Luke 6:46-49 "he is like a man building a house, he dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock."
 - Luke 13:6-9 "leave (the fig tree) alone for one more year...If it bears fruit next year fine. If not, then cut it down."
- **They suffer the most from:**
 - Adversity - Mathew 13:24-30
 - Broken contracts - Matthew 21:33-41 (Mark 12:1-9, Luke 20:9-16)
 - Unproductive employees - Luke 16:1-13
 - Acts of God - Matthew 8:28-34 (Mark 5:1-20, Luke 8:26-39)

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☛ **Coping With Success**
• Understanding Wealth

▪ **The free market rewards beneficial economic activity in the long run:**

- It provides incentive for risk taking & efficient operation thru profit
 - Profit discourages consumption & hoarding
 - Matthew 25:14-30 parable of the talents
 - Luke 15:11-32 parable of the prodigal son
 - Profit encourages fair dealing
 - Jeremiah 15:13, 17:3, 20:5
 - Ezekiel 27,28
 - Habakkuk 2:1-11

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Faith@Work in the **MARKETPLACE**

☛ **Coping With Success**
• Understanding Wealth

▪ **The free market rewards beneficial economic activity in the long run:**

- Profit allocates resources efficiently
- It allows us to be co-creators with God
- Profit enables one to be generous:
 - Ephesians 4:28
 - Luke 10:25-37 - The good Samaritan

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➔ **Coping With Success**
• Understanding Wealth

- **Wealth is a gift/reward from God:**
 - Genesis 24:34-35
 - Genesis 26:12-14
 - Deuteronomy 8:10-18
 - Joshua 22:6-9
 - 1 Samuel 2:1-11
 - 1 Chronicles 29:1-20
 - Psalm 112:1-10

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➔ **Coping With Success**
• Understanding Wealth

- **Wealth can be a fortress keeping us from God:**
 - Isaiah 44:1-21 “he feeds on ashes...”
 - Jeremiah 2:13 “My people have committed two sins. They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water”
 - Matthew 13:22 “What was sown among the thorns is the man who hears the word but the worries of this life and *the deceitfulness of wealth* choke it”
 - Matthew 19:16-30, Jeremiah 9:23-24, Hosea 12:8, 1 Timothy 6:3-10, Revelation 3:14-18

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- **Early Church example:**
 - 40 supernatural events described in the book of Acts
 - 39 are in the marketplace or the home - 97.5%
 - City streets, public square, prison, home gatherings, palace, lecture hall, beach, ship
 - 1 was *outside* of the temple gate

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↳ **Image of God & Cultural Mandate**

- **Duties that flow from bearing the Image of God:**
 - **To free creation from the effects of the curse:**
 - Romans 8:18-25
 - Ephesians 1:15-23 "...the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way."
 - **To subdue the earth for the benefit of mankind as God's stewards - Genesis 1:26-28**

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↳ **Called to work**

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↳ **Image of God & Cultural Mandate**

- **Duties that flow from bearing the Image of God:**
 - **To benefit the community – especially the less fortunate** Matthew 25:31-46
 - **To live confidently that others might see the effect of God in our lives** 1 Peter 3:10-17 "In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an account to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

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