

What a serious Christmas party our company has thrown this year! They have been really generous. The food, the drinks, the entertainment and... and... and. And even though the music doesn't feel right, I will stay so that I do not cause any offence. We are supposed to be all things to all men, after all.

Our business needs to grow. As our profits grow, we can give much more to the community. We will also tithe to the local church. The new tender from the local municipality has to be won at all costs. We have invited someone from the tender committee for some wining and dining. A 'brown envelope' will possibly cross the table. We cannot lose this business. Surely, it's not corruption if it keeps our business going?

We live in a world that doesn't aspire to our biblical principles. And we people of the faith, can sometimes have a chameleon-like faith. We are willing to blend in rather than stand out. How do we conduct ourselves in a manner that befits our calling in Christ? Our actions expose our values - our values are an expression of our belief system - and our belief system is influenced either by the Holy Spirit or by some other force that we account to. We quickly forget that, as believers, we are the 'called-out' ones. We have to live differently. How?

1. Seek His Kingdom

We have heard it so many times that we must "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and **all these things** shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). I am a firm believer that in everything we do, in every situation we find ourselves, we must always seek God first. We must always seek to understand His reason for planting us in our place of influence. Remember: Our work environment is our mission field.

2. Sowing and Reaping

This is a universal principle that is not restricted to issues of faith. "Do not be deceived, God cannot be mocked. Whatever you sow, you shall also reap..." (Galatians 6:7). I urge you to **sow good seeds** in your work environment, however toxic or uncomfortable it is. I recently read the following quote on this important principle:

"If you plant dishonesty, you reap distrust; if you plant laziness, you reap stagnation; if you plant honesty, you reap truth; if you plant perseverance, you reap victory" (Unknown).

3. Shine your light

Excel in your work. Do not embarrass the Kingdom! Work harder and smarter. Be known to be great in your field of work. Let your works be a beautiful fragrance to those around you. I'm not calling for perfection but for excellence. Shine your light and bring glory to your Heavenly Father.

Friends, your kingdom values must never be fluid. Do not be like a chameleon that changes its colour depending on the environment they are found in. Your faith must remain rooted in Him. You will be challenged, you will have doubts, you will have victories. Let your work environment be an extension of the Kingdom of God.

"Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify our heavenly Father". (Matthew 5:15)