



SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Scripture: Ephesians 6:5-9

TITLE: Workplace Makeover

Integrity is doing the right thing when no one is looking. Have you heard that before? But does that apply to all areas of life? I mean, aren't there exceptions or permissible exemptions, like the workplace? I mean, what if your boss is a jerk? What if your boss is absent? What if you don't get paid what you deserve? What if you've been looked over for that promotion again?

Well, the Apostle Paul has some "to the point" answers for us today. Paul writes in Ephesians 6:5-9 (NLT):

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ. ⁶ Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. ⁷ Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ⁸ Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free.

⁹ Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Don't threaten them; remember, you both have the same Master in heaven, and he has no favorites.

I know what you're thinking, "Nat, thank God, slavery is outlawed and condemned now. How does this apply to me today?" I'm glad you asked. It's true, that we have abolished legalized slavery virtually everywhere around the world. But we do serve the organizations and leaders where we work.

We are called to respect our leaders and submit to their instructions. Are there exceptions? Of course. When a leader or an organization calls for us to sin or compromise ethically, we must protest. But otherwise, we are to carry out our tasks with enthusiasm and right motives.

One of the reasons I love being part of Back to the Bible, is the desire to honor God by honoring our leaders in our daily work. It's true, some elements of our work can be tedious or exhausting, but we are ultimately working for God, so we do it with joy.

No matter where you work or what you do, your work matters to God. It matters because everything we do should be to glorify God and worship Him. So we should live with integrity in the workplace and wherever we go.

Why do we do this? Well, Paul says, there is a reward in Heaven for how we live and behave, no matter who is watching.

My challenge for you today, is to find one way to work with pleasing God in mind.

So if you're a boss, lead with integrity and kindness.

If you're a manager, manage with integrity and grace.

If you're an employee, work to the best of your ability, all for the glory of God.

Find one way each day this week. Share what you did in the comments below, and let's make our organizations better while giving the glory to God.