

The Christian Work Ethic

Ephesians 4:28

Introduction:

A. Work mentality

1. A common mentality- Be c_____ about the job you get
2. A Christian mentality – our work, no matter what it is, is i_____ to God in His work in this world
 - a. This applies to the e_____
 - b. This applies to the r_____

B. Eph 4:28 gives us the Christian work ethic we are to have and it applies to those who are employed and those who are retired.

Shun stealing

A. The workers in Paul's day

1. S_____ laborers (e.g. working in the fields)
2. Voluntary s_____ (e.g. those working for a successful master)
3. The self-e_____ (e.g. farmer)

B. The stealing Paul is referring to is stealing from those you work for or those you are serving.

1. In Paul's day
 - a. Slaves stole from their masters
 - b. Tax collectors over-c_____ their clients
 - c. Soldiers detained people for a b_____
2. Modern day examples
 - a. Employee t_____
 - b. Cashing p_____ checks for an exorbitant fee
 - c. Loans with high i_____ rates

C. Christ followers ought to be known for being h_____ in their work.

Strenuously serve

A. Labor

1. With your own h_____ (this is put this way in contrast to using them for stealing).
2. The word labor refers to h_____ work (see Col 1:29)
 - a. It does NOT necessarily mean p_____ difficult
 - b. It does mean doing the work w_____

B. The retired

1. Your retirement check is a benefit of years of l_____
2. Your retirement check serves the same purpose as a paycheck

Set to share

- A. The purpose of our labors is to share with those in n_____
1. What is a need?
 - a. Have to have it in order to s_____ or
 - b. Have to have it in order to be s_____ or
 - c. Have to have it in order to be h_____.
 2. How do we share?
 - a. It is best not to give c_____ (unless you know the person well and trust them enough to use it for needs)
 - b. It is best to meet there need directly (e.g. f_____, clothing, shelter, directly paying a bill for them).
- B. In order to share, we need to be r_____ to share as Paul outlines in 1Tim 6:18.
1. Requirements
 - a. Use what God has provided to meet your b_____ needs
 - b. Work toward paying off your d_____ (take our financial course – Financial Peace University)
 - c. Sow some of your abundance into God's k_____
 2. Are you set to share?
 - a. Our church body voted to be a host site for Family Promise of Tuscola County to shelter f_____ overnight at our building one week at a time, four times per year.
 - b. Our church body is responsible to f_____ a maximum of 14 people a nutritional supper, a grab-n-go breakfast, and a sack lunch.
 - 1) This is not a hand o_____
 - 2) This is joining these families in their s_____ plan that empowers them to achieve independence and stabilization.
 - a) They live within a b_____
 - b) They s_____ money
 - c) They secure a j_____
 - d) Utilize all the r_____ Family Promise connects them with.
 - e) _____% success rate (12 months of stability after securing housing)

Conclusion – as your pastor, I do not just give this message but I live it. Join me in wise stewardship of the abundance God has given and share with those in need.