

The Intentional Life (Part 8)
“Intentionally Working for the Lord”
(Col. 3:23)

Introduction: If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you have a promise – Jesus came to give you a “full” life! (Jn.10:10) A large portion of that life involves work. Doing good works is what we were designed for (Eph. 2:10) Whether it’s volunteer or vocational, work is something we have to live with. So, how can we make it more meaningful and fulfilling? Did you know, how you view and thereby do your job, not only impacts your level of living – but it also impacts your witness for Christ to others. Our works ought to be meaningful, productive and fulfilling; and with the right view of them, they can be, no matter what they might be!

Here are three things we need to consider about our jobs to be *Intentionally working for the Lord...*

I. Be a contributor:

A. There is dignity in our work –

The Bible places a high premium on work (Eccl 3:22)

1. **When we consider the amount of time we put in at our jobs** – these are the best years of our lives... they ought to count for something!
2. **Maybe you think “It’s no big deal, it’s just a job”** – But that’s not what it is to God. To Him it is an opportunity He has placed you in and called you to!

B. There is a decision to make about our work -

We need to understand, it isn’t about where you work or what you do voluntarily or for a living – it’s about how you work!

1. You don’t serve the Lord any more or less because you serve Him in or outside the church walls. We serve Him wherever we are as the church!
2. We need to remember who we are serving. We are not working for man, but for the Lord!

II. Don’t be a complicator:

The purpose for which God places any of us anywhere is to point people to Him!

Christian did you know – You can ruin and or wreck your testimony by what you do and how you do it on your job? (We can do this when we complicate things)

A. What do you want to get out of your work?

1. **Many are confused as to how to get the maximum benefit out of their jobs.**

Consider these examples:

- **Joseph** –
 - **Nehemiah** –
 - **Daniel** –
 - **You may not like where you are or even what you do**, but if you will serve God faithfully there, He will in the end honor you too.
2. **God has not placed you where you are to rob and cheat others or your employer** (How many Christians do you know who have a bad reputation for

laziness or dishonesty or bad work ethics) – These people complicate things for those believers trying to set a good example and point people to the Lord! (You have to ask yourself...)

B. What are you willing to put into your job?

1. **Jesus saw himself as a servant of the Lord** – (Phil. 2)
2. **Jesus saw His work as service unto the Lord** – (Heb. 10:7,9)

III. Be a conqueror:

Be a servant of God in your work; do your work as a service to God – but don’t allow your work to become your god!

(Whether your work is volunteer or vocational, here’s how to get most reward for it...)

A. Go to work as a servant of God –

B. Treat your work as service to God –

(Eccl 9:10; Col. 3:23)

C. Keep God ahead of your work -

Here are some questions to help us do this:

1. Am I glorifying God in my work?
2. Does my work ever compete with Jesus to be first in my life?
3. Has my work caused me to neglect any essential relationships in my life?
4. Am I tempted to compromise my values or convictions as a Christian to keep or get ahead in my position at work?
5. Do I use my work as an excuse to avoid other responsibilities or obligations?
6. Can the others I work with easily and clearly see my witness (honesty, integrity, work ethic)?
7. Am I using my job to serve God or myself?

Conclusion:

Doing good works is what we were designed for (Eph. 2:10) So, whether we are working as a volunteer or for a career, we know this is in keeping with God’s will. Therefore, when we work as servant of the Lord, and treat our work as service to the Lord, then we will find ourselves “*Intentionally Working for the Lord*” in all we do.

Perhaps today is a good day to commit or recommit yourself to the Lord and in all you do, do as unto Him.