

HOW TO WORK IN ANY ENVIRONMENT

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Working with people is a lot of fun and yet very challenging. It is exciting, tasking, educative, progressive, life transforming, and yet comes with many challenges. For some, getting along with people is a big deal and sometimes a nightmare. Many have been so overwhelmed with the problems associated with work that they are so stressed that they go into depression. It has so affected some that they quit their jobs and now struggle with the baggage because they cannot get themselves out of the prison of all that transpired in their past; as a result, getting along well with people becomes a problem.

Work is very essential to living, earning an income and achieving greatness in life and fulfilling one's dream and assignment on earth. The Bible teaches that we must work to earn an honest income and be a blessing to others. It discourages laziness, and warns that it will only breed poverty and hardship.

Proverbs 10: 4

4. Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.

NIV

Proverbs 14: 23

23. All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

NIV

In working we relate and deal with people of different character and personality who come from different backgrounds, have different knowledge, experience, style, beliefs and principles. We are expected to get along well and do our work very well and deliver on our mandates. Sometimes, workers are confused about how to relate with the work and the worker. There seems to be confusion in separating the work from the worker. There is also the challenge of separating one's personal life from the work life.

The following principles will help you work intelligently and successfully in any environment and climb the ladder of success.

1. Don't expect to be appreciated.

- Your only expectation should be to get a paycheck in return for your services. If you are appreciated for your services or sacrifices for the company or institution you work for, see it as a bonus.
- Don't come to work to have personal relationships, but to do your job and deliver what you are paid to deliver.
- Don't allow what you do to affect who you are. But let who you are determine how you do your work. You are a son of God, a king and an ambassador of the Kingdom of Heaven.

2. Do your job well, but remember your mission.

- God put you there to be a Light.
- Represent Christ where you work and make Him known and win souls to His kingdom through exemplary lifestyle and sharing of your testimony.
- Do not use office “working” hours to verbally preach the gospel. Let your godly conduct, good behavior, humility, hard work, efficiency and dedication to your work and assignments preach Christ to your colleagues and employers.

3. Seek opportunities to change the atmosphere of your work place without commenting on the problems.

- Be a problem solver and not just talk about the problem.
- Be a solution and not part of the problem or “the problem” your office has.
- You have a God to talk to. Pray about the work challenges – assignments to carry out, difficult jobs and assignments, difficult colleagues and bosses, knotty issues and every other kind of problem your office or company may be having.
- Always bear in mind you are on an assignment. Focus on the assignment and not on trivialities.
- Quietness and competence shall be your strength. And focus releases strength.

4. Don’t let your environment get inside of you. You should influence it and not let it influence you.

- Stand out from the crowd and let your light draw men from darkness to the light where you are.
- Stop going to work to be fed (to earn a living).
- You didn’t come to receive, you are on earth to give.
- Whatever knowledge, experience, training, gift and skill you have is to be a blessing to others. You should see work as an opportunity to be a blessing – use what you have to impact others and contribute to the betterment of the society.
- You are employed by your employer to help him or her achieve success and greatness. And in helping him achieve that, you become successful and great yourself and find fulfillment in life. Help your employer become a success and you too will become a success as well. Help your employer increase his income and you will increase yourself in the process.

5. Increase your capacity to work with different personalities.

- Consciousness of who you are in Christ helps you to get along well with others no matter their personality and character and lifestyle.
- You were not designed to work alone. You can only succeed working with others. And God has put in each of us the capacity to accommodate the weaknesses others have that can make us disconnect from them and want to be alone. We have the capacity to forbear, forgive and overlook offences committed against us. We have the capacity to get along well with all kinds of people. We have the capacity to work with anybody – the best and the worst kind of persons, the good, the bad and the ugly. You can work

anywhere with anybody. You can work with different personalities if you will focus on the assignment and who you are and not on the weaknesses of others.

- With a positive mindset you will get along well with all kinds of people.
- Love people and overlook the wrong things that offend in their lives.
- God will often bless you through people you don't even like!

6. Remember, where you are does not define where you are going. This will deliver you from frustration.

- You are on a journey and you will soon arrive. Never lose sight of that.
- God has a plan and a glorious future for your life.
- Do not let today's negative, humiliating work experience and demeaning and insulting remarks from people get into you and weigh you down or short you down. It is only a training school that will prepare you for the great future God the Father has for you. There is a reward for those who in humility and total submission overcome this stage of the training and development.
- Keep your eyes on the prize.
- When Apostle Peter did this, he was able to walk on what other people sank in!

7. Get the optimum results with minimal confusion.

- Let the wisdom of God guide you as you submit to the Holy Spirit who is in your life to help you triumph. The Holy Spirit is the believer's guide out of confusion and troubles. He is the teacher, counselor, strength and helper to the believer. Surrender to Him and He will teach and guide you out of every difficulty and into success and greatness. He will help you handle what you cannot handle. He will help you with work assignments, problems with colleagues, bosses, management and your employer.
- Be effective without making the environment worse.
- Focus on the work and be a good testimony for Christ.

8. Don't be associated with one group or clique.

- Be careful about controversial relationships and associations.
- Labels limit your usefulness.
- God wants you to work with everybody but be labeled by nobody.
- Be an "everybody" person.
- Strive to be in everybody's good book.
- Use all your gifts.
- Maximize your potential.
- Make a positive impact in company and in the life of the people you work with.

9. Always keep your song near you.

- Be joyful always. Keep a cheerful face and wear a smile always. Let the joy within glow outwardly.
- It is a scientific fact that joyful and happy people are more productive than sad and depressed people.

- Joy inspires. It activates the creative ability in man. It stirs, encourages and strengthens one. Joy paves the way for divine inspiration and guidance.
- Keep a consecrated place in your soul.
- Hold on to your praise, but do not turn your office to a church praise center.
- Let your heart think positive thoughts that will cause music to rise from your inner being. Rejoice evermore.
- With joy shall you draw water from the wells of salvation (Isa 12:3).

10. Understand that God anoints you for trouble.

- Your progress, success and achievements will attract opposition, badmouthing, persecution and all kinds of attacks. It happened to Jacob, Joseph, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah, Paul and the rest of the apostles.
- Greatness always comes with a price. No pain, no gain.
- Never allow opposition to distract, depress or stop you from your job.
- Be willing to forebear and forgive as offended. Have no bitterness towards offenders who try to pull you down or stop you.
- Trust that the Lord Jesus through the ministry of the Holy Spirit will never leave you nor forsake you, but assist you to overcome and come out triumphant.
- Put on the whole armor of God at all times.