**Workplace Series 1 – Building Influence**

**(Ephesians 6:5-9; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13)**

***Pastor Dato’ Dr Daniel Ho***

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. (Ephesians 6:5-9)

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good. (2 Thessalonians 3:6-13)

Introduction - Perspective of the workplace:

(Remembering where we are)

The workplace is the largest mission field on earth, and the opportunities and the possibilities to influence and impact are immense. When the workplace / marketplace is rightly influenced and impacted it has a huge positive effect on the nation, which includes all sphere of influence, political, social and economic.

# Place of the Church in the workplace / marketplace

(Remembering what the Church is)

## Engaging God’s people in the workplace

* To celebrate with your joys and blessings.
* To journey with you in your challenges and pains.

## Equipping God’s people for the workplace

* To enlighten you with a right perspective regarding work.
* That work is ordained by God and therefore right and good.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (Genesis 2:15)

For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” (2 Thessalonians 3:10)

* That work is worship.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Everything that can be done to God’s glory is an act of worship. Even eating and drinking can be an act of worship. When is eating and drinking not glorifying to God? When we overeat/overdrink.

* That we must be excellent in work

For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. (2 Thessalonians 3:7-9)

We must give ourselves to the best of our work.

* To equip you better for the workplace.
* That there you are serving God and not just men.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:23-24)

We are in our company, our workplace, to serve God, not men.

* To give you the right understanding, motivation and desire regarding work

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their .eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. (Colossians 3:22)

We are not there to serve and impress our boss. We are to work diligently regardless of whether our boss is watching us. Knowing that God is to be glorified at our work, we are reminded to handle our work with reverence and awe.

## Empowering people at the workplace

* To pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon your life, your work and your family/loved ones.
* To commission and send you forth in the name of Jesus to make a difference.

**The place of the church in the society**:

**Police station** – The church plays the role of a police station, as a place we go to when we need help, support, security, safety and protection.

**Petrol station** – The church plays the role of a petrol station, as a place to refill, refresh, and fuel up, so people can be equipped and released to serve.

**Train station** – Trains carry us to the destination we want to go. Our train tickets remind us of where we are heading to. Likewise, the church plays the role of a train station, leading people to where they want to go in life, and after death.

The position of the church in a nation is very crucial. If the church is strong, the nation will be strong. Likewise, if the church is weak, the nation will be weak. The hope of the nation is found not in the politicians, but in the church.

# Principles for the workplace:

(Remembering who we are)

* A compass pointing towards the true north.

You are the light of the world. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14a, 16)

A compass always points you to the right direction. Likewise, we are to function like compasses, pointing people to the right direction, pointing people to God.

* A comrade in dealing with problems and challenges.

I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. (Philippians 4:2-3)

We are comrades, fighting together for a good cause for our company, in our workplaces.

* A companion for learning and growth.

We are to be good workers, with a good reputation at work.

* A catalyst for change and transformation.

He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.” (Matthew 13:33)

We are to be a good influence, to bring positive change and transformation at our workplace.

* A carer for the people in the organisation.

Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children. (1 Thessalonians 2:7)

We are to be gentle, gracious and kind to others, to reach out and care for them.

# Practices at the workplace:

(Building influence at the workplace)

* Regularly pray for your work, your colleagues and the workplace.

Do not pray only when there are problems. Pray at all times.

* Be excellent in your work.

Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. (Daniel 6:3-4)

* Make time to build relationships.

Go out for lunches with colleagues. Spend time to get to know them and let them get to know you.

* Show thoughtfulness, compassion and love.

Offer to buy lunch for a colleague if he or she is too busy to go out for lunch.

* Bear witness to your faith

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. (2 Timothy 1:7-8a)

Do not be ashamed to share your testimony of the goodness of God. Find opportunities to connect and to bear witness.

Sermon summary contributed by Anthea Tan.

Prayer points contributed by Michelle Wong.





**SERMON: Building Influence - Workplace Influence**

**Pray**

* God's people will engage with their friends, relatives and acquaintances in their workplace to be a testimony for Him.
* We will be convicted in our hearts demonstrate the spirit of excellence in our workplace.
* People of God will see that work is worship unto God.
* We will raise up new leaders and empower them to touch the lives of people in their workplace.

***"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free."***

***(Ephesians 6: 7-8)***

**MINISTRIES and EVENTS: Workplace Group Leaders' Sharing**

*21 May 2017*

**Pray:**

* God will convict the hearts of all believers to rise up to be leaders in their workplace.
* God will inspire more people of God step up and attend Workplace Leaders' Sharing.
* God will enable the speakers to be obedient to His calling for this event.
* God will bless the leaders in their various ministries with wisdom, knowledge and understanding to do His Will.

***For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. (Proverbs2:6)***

 **MALAYSIA MY NATION: Future of Malaysia**

*All Malaysians*

**Pray:**

* All Malaysians will work together in unity with the government for the future of the nation.
* The leadership in Malaysia will hear and understand the needs of the people and work towards the betterment of the nation.
* The leadership of the churches to train God's people to impact the society in the marketplace with the right understanding of their role in nation building.
* God’s authority will prevail in all circumstances which arise in our country and we are thankful for all His grace and mercies

***I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.(1 Timothy2 :1-2)***

* **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: North Korea**

**Pray:**

* God's protection on neighbouring South Korea who are showing the love of Christ to those from the darkness.
* God’s strength, comfort and protection upon those who have lost loved ones due to their engaging with the North Koreans.
* North Korean leaders will have the same special encounter with Jesus.
* God to open the eyes of those who live in darkness to see the light through dreams, visions and hearing from the Holy Spirit.

***But you Lord, are a shield around me, my glory the One who lifts my head high. (Psalm 3:3)***