

The Personal Work of Being a Boss 11-5-17 AM

Personal work is that duty we personally owe God. We might accurately call it doing “the Lord’s work” (Colossians 3:23). It is being a husband, wife, parent, child, employee or employer according to the principles of Christ. One of the least mentioned of these roles is that of the master, the boss, the employer. We find the directions given to them in Ephesians 6:9 and Colossians 4:1.

God calls those who are the boss to several fundamentals. First, we are told that they must grant justice and fairness. In Job 31:13-15 Job tells about his position as being in charge. He tells the audience that he never ignored a complaint of one of his servants, because both he and they are made in the image of God. The commandment is also to give up threatening. When God made the rules for servants and masters in the Old Testament, He warned masters to not be cruel as a means of reverence to God (Leviticus 25:43), perhaps for the same reason that Job understood this principle.

Many of us may look at our positions in life and declare “I am not a boss.....”. But we are all in situations from time to time where we are the boss. For example, people who serve you in stores; there you are the boss. People who maintain your home look to you as the boss. In fact, when people serve you in any business, you are the boss. We all have “servants” in some way; therefore, these commandments dictate the ways we approach even those interactions.

These rules have several underlying points that drive them. First, all workers are people in God’s image. While this should be obvious, when one is a master, it often is forgotten. It is evil to look down on them, and it is evil to mistreat them. Second, God is mindful of the laborer. If he is cheated, God sees it (James 5:1-6). Finally, we need to understand that being in charge in any circumstance puts us in the position of a higher judgment.

Power and authority demand the application of Christian principles. In the parable of the unmerciful servant in Matthew 18:25-35, we see two of them. The greater master (who is God) shows compassion, and expect the lesser servant to show mercy. These are two behaviors expected of us. In the parable of the talents, the Master judges His servant on what they are capable of doing, thereby demonstrating fairness. Finally, the one in charge needs to constantly be humble (James 1:17), and never see themselves above those they oversee.