

Working With Approval

Bible Study

Sam describes that as a Christian his attitude to work is service - the word translated as 'ministry' in the Bible.

- How is your work a ministry of service to others?

Sam describes 5 hallmarks of character:

1. PASSION. **Read Colossians 3:23-24**

Working for an audience of one and realising everything we do is for God gives all our work significance.

- What does it mean to work for the Lord (v23)?
- Does that mean human masters don't matter (v23)?
- How does it help us to understand work for the Lord to know that our words and deeds are in the name of the Lord and with thanks to God the Father (v24)?
- What might this look like in your workplace?

2. PEACE. **Read Colossians 3:15-17**

Deep peace that all is good in our soul isn't found in money or power but in a person: Jesus.

- What is the deep peace described here? What robs us of it?
- What security do we look to that doesn't deliver peace?
- How do we know the peace described here at work?

3. JOY. **Read Revelation 21:1-5**

- What is the final outcome of the earth? How does knowing the eternal perspective gives us bright optimism?

4. GRACE. **Read Colossians 3:12-14**

- How does knowing we are God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved change how we work and see others?

5. HUMILITY. **Read Philippians 2:1-4**

- How can we practice the humility described here (v3-4)?

Personal Reflection: Read 1 John 3:1-3, 16-18

How does knowing God's love shape our character at work?

Colossians Chapter 3

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

Philippians Chapter 2

28 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.