

Ingredients for a Happy Workplace

Colossians 3:22-4:1 (NIV)

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. ^{4:1}Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

1. THE WORKER'S COVENANT

vv. 22, 23 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

Ephesians 6:5 (NCV)

Slaves, obey your masters here on earth with fear and respect and from a sincere heart, just as you obey Christ.

- Obedience
- Sincerity
- Hard Work

2. THE BOSS'S COVENANT

v. 1 "Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven."

- Justice

Jeremiah 22:13 (NIV) Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his countrymen work for nothing, not paying them for their labor.

- Fairness

James 5:4 (NIV)

Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

1 Timothy 5:18 (NIV)

For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

3. THE MOTIVATION

- The Fear of the Lord

vv. 24, 25 Since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

- The Glory of the Lord

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

- The Work of the Lord

Ephesians 6:7 (NIV)

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men . . .

- The Reward of the Lord

Ephesians 6:8 (NIV)

. . . because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

- The Judgment of the Lord

Ephesians 6:9 (NIV)

And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.