

Christian work ethics

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Christians have an inner light - The Spirit of Christ will normally manifest the image of God.

This light will shine unless it is suppressed by fear - The Christian is to live by faith not fear.

Ethics is an “inside-out” dynamic - It is not just superficial discipline.

The end game of ethics is the glory to God - Christian ethics is not about what works best for US IN THIS AGE.

How are ethics expressed at work?

Character

- Speaking the truth in love.

Competence

- Setting the pace in attitude and performance.

Culture

- Infusing the workplace with kingdom faith, hope, & love.

Caring

- Sensitive and courageous initiation in response to the personal needs of others.

Work ethics - four callings

Ephesians 4:15

Character

- Speaking the truth in love.

“but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ,”

Speaking the truth in love is not only a demonstration of character,

it is also a means of developing character.

Work ethics - four callings

Ephesians 4:15

Character

- Speaking the truth in love.

“but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ,”

Not to be confused with reputation



John Wooden

“Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.”

Work ethics - four callings

Ephesians 4:15

Character

- Speaking the truth in love.

“but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ,”

Not to be confused with rigidity



Criss Jami

“Christianity is at its purest a philosophy about a person, Jesus Christ, and at its dirtiest a philosophy about requirements and law.”

Work ethics - four callings

Ephesians 4:15

Character

- Speaking the truth in love.

“but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ,”

Not to be confused with religiosity



Saint Augustine

“It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels.”

Work ethics - four callings

Ephesians 4:15

Character

- Speaking the truth in love.

“but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ,”

Tests of character.

How do you treat people who can't pay back?
How do you treat people who can't fight back?

How do you respond to winning & losing?
How do you respond to winners & losers?

Work ethics - four callings

Colossians 3:23

Competence

- Setting the pace in attitude and performance.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,”

1 Peter 2:12

“Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the things which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

Work ethics - four callings

Culture

- Infusing the workplace with kingdom faith, hope, & love.

Matthew 6

“²² The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.”

Romans 12

“¹ I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Work ethics - four callings

Culture

- Infusing the workplace with kingdom faith, hope, & love.

This does not mean:

- ✓ Evangelistic preaching
- ✓ Leading a Bible Study
- ✓ Use of Biblical language
- ✓ Not working on Sunday
- ✓ Ridged legalism

This more often means:

- ✓ Loving kindness
- ✓ Integrity & honesty
- ✓ Natural faith & hope
- ✓ Sensitivity
- ✓ Peacemaking

Work ethics - four callings

Caring

- Sensitive and courageous initiation in response to the personal needs of others.

1 Peter 3:15

“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;”

Caring involves:

- ✓ Personal inner surrender to Christ
- ✓ Preparation beforehand
- ✓ Sensitivity to receptiveness
- ✓ Respect for others

How would you respond to this person?

- ✓ They are **eager to listen** to you and empathize with you.
- ✓ They are **generous** with their time, things, and praise.
- ✓ They **tell you the truth** in ways that are sensitive and constructive.
- ✓ They **open their heart** to you as though you were their trusted friend.

If you are attracted to this kind of person just imagine how many friends you will have if you become like this.

You might be seen as a caring Christian if:

- ✓ You take time off work to be with a friend at a time of great pain or joy in their lives.
- ✓ You take the initiative in seeking out needs, so that you can give your, time, money, and prayer.
- ✓ You willingly share financial resources with a person in need without a tax deduction.
- ✓ You take the initiative to throw a party in honor of another.
- ✓ You count it a great honor to sacrifice for the well-being of others.

- ✓ You welcome the help of others who seek to minister to you.
- ✓ You put the needs of others above your own personal comfort.
- ✓ You see the needs of others as opportunities and invitations to minister to them.
- ✓ You treat your spiritual family like your biological family when it comes to offering assistance in areas of need.
- ✓ You manage your stuff as though it belonged to someone else.

Take home

- ✓ Strive for an integrated life.
- ✓ Work to be the kind of person you would like to meet.
- ✓ Think - gratitude, generosity, graciousness.

A person of Godly character manages relationships

- ✓ with a vision of people that is reverent
- ✓ a tongue that is gracious and truthful
- ✓ and a walk that is generous and sensitive.

**Never say I love you
if you don't really care.**

**Never talk of feelings
if they aren't really there.**

**Never hold my hand
if you are going to break my heart.**

**Never say you're going to
if you don't plan to start.**

**Never look into my eyes
if all you do is lie.**

**Never say hello
if you really mean good-bye.**