

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Quote: “Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it. Autograph your work with excellence!” Unknown

Presuming that a person has the needed skills for a particular occupation, there are four assets available to everyone. These will give a clear advantage when it comes to getting, keeping and excelling in their job for the glory of God and the good of their employer.

Be on time. A *pattern* of tardiness reveals a character problem that can show itself in a variety of wrong attitudes. You may be lazy, disorganized, or self-centered, valuing your time more than the time of those waiting for you. When you are late for work or for engagements, you fail to show gratitude for gainful employment or for personal relationships. Punctual means “strict observance in keeping engagements: prompt; precise; exact.” Proverbs 6:9-11 “How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep— So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.” 26:14 “As a door turns on its hinges, So does the lazy man on his bed.” 16 “The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.”

Treat authority with respect. Disrespect, whether it is overt (easily seen) or covert (hidden) is a cancer that corrupts the workplace. You may be a know-it-all who needs a dose of humility. Insubordinate people always lose in the long run. Titus 2:9-10 “Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back (“disputing, contradicting, speaking against”), not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity (faithfulness), that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.”

Do your personal best. Know your job and show that you know it by seeking to excel. Sliding by, or doing only what you must is for “also rans” who will never be exceptional. Be willing to “go the extra mile.” Be

willing to do unpleasant, lackluster jobs that others won’t do. Pursue excellence! Proverbs 22:29 “Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.” Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. 23-24 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

Dress appropriately and commendably. Be a credit to your company by the way that you look. Slovenly or slipshod appearance models the impression that you could not care less, or that you are comfort-driven. How we are viewed by others can have a great impact on our effectiveness. To customers, the manner in which an employee meets their needs is what really matters.

God’s A Honor Roll, Assets, Advantages

Sharp-looking employees will receive a lot more “slack” if they mess up than employees who look and act like they just got out of bed! Be a visual “selling point” that shouts professionalism and competence. It will always pay dividends for you.

Character is a common thread in each of the assets that we have considered. People evaluate us every day. Their assessments can impact our reputation in general and our testimony in particular. They can also open or close doors of opportunity. An unnamed servant of King Saul said of young David that he was “skillful in playing [the harp], a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him.” His reputation got him a position in King Saul’s court. Many years later, David’s son, Solomon, would write, “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.” If you are late, disrespectful, complacent about your work, or slovenly, you can say “goodbye” to having a good name, as well as getting and keeping a good job. What kind of self-portrait are you autographing through the daily work that you do? Does your effort project excellence or mediocrity?