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Praising God through our Professions: Glorifying God in the Workplace

A Commentary by Jason Curry

I enjoy receiving e-mail messages from family and friends who are glorifying God through their thoughts and actions. I'm sure that my spam filter has unceremoniously deleted some of these messages before they reached my Inbox; nevertheless, I am extremely grateful for those messages that manage to make it through. Messages from friends and colleagues often contain bible verses, Christian opinions on inspirational biblical passages, testimonies about God's presence in their lives, warnings about people, places and objects that lead us away from God and encouragement for times and stressful circumstances in which we need the power and presence of the Lord. As a minister, I encounter people who have both questions and affirmations concerning God on a daily basis. Their written and verbal comments are always welcome in my working environment. Their actual presence, for a conversation or counseling session, is welcome as well. There are some people, however, who work in environments where

writing or receiving email messages about Christ is considered unprofessional; therefore, "Christian correspondence" is unwelcome in their working environment. Some people work in environments where people are completely dismissive or even hostile toward the Christ's message of love, forgiveness, faith and hope. I've talked to some people who have worked in extremely oppressive environments, and through our conversations, the following questions are raised: How can I glorify God in my workplace? Can I encourage myself in the Lord (1 Samuel 30:6) while encouraging others without being rude, unprofessional or overbearing? Fortunately, there are ways to glorify God without being intrusive and impolite. Remember, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13).

There are some people who seek to glorify God by organizing small, informal bible studies during lunchtime. Sometimes brief, informal meetings among colleagues (not su-

pervisees) in order to discuss God's word provides inspiration for a stressful day. Listening to gospel music playing softly at your desk or spending ten minutes reading a daily devotional at break also helps to remind people about God's presence at work. Companies sometimes frown upon sending and receiving email messages with religious content, but, using your personal account to receive and send messages after work with consenting colleagues can provide the content for a meaningful conversation the next day. Also, people may be inspired and encouraged by your very presence. Often people who love the Lord have a demeanor or countenance that uplifts and edifies others even though they have testified about the Lord. The Apostle Paul reminds us: "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31)." Whether we be in worship or the workplace, there is always an occasion to glorify God.



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