

P561

GRACE NOTES PROGRAM

TITLE: HOW TO SUCCEED AT YOUR JOB – part 1

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. Our topic for today is ‘How to succeed at the most important job of your life’. To begin the discussion, let’s consider the questions we might ask when offered a job. One of the first ones might be - am I qualified? Another is – will I enjoy the work and the location? How about – will I like the boss and the people I have to work with? What about the pay? Taking on a new job can be a life-changing experience. With this in mind – let’s take you to our host Barbara Sandbek who will expound our topic.

Whether we realize it or not, when we’re accepted into God’s kingdom, through faith in Jesus, we’re automatically given a job – the most important one we’ll ever be asked to do.

After we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior our life is changed. God now lives inside us through the person of the Holy Spirit. Because of this, we are qualified to work for the Lord. With the Holy Spirit’s guidance and God’s Word, the Bible, we can learn what our job description is and how to please our Father – who is our spiritual boss, so to speak.

We are called to work both solo, as well as with other Believers at times, so we can cover the territory, the entire world. Big task, huh? But, listen - we are working for Almighty God, who gives us all we need to do the job. Philippians 2:13 says...

..it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purposes.

And we can ask the Lord for help, as the apostle Paul did in Hebrews 13:21. He prayed...

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Our job description is to be a witness wherever we go. Webster defines a witness as, ‘One who furnishes evidence, one who publicly affirms religious faith, and/or one who is called on to testify’.

I Peter 3:15 defines how this can be done...

...in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

Colossians 4:5-6 also says...

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

I have to commend my husband, Dale, in this. He works in a trade to help support our ministry. Most every workday he stops in at a gas station for coffee. The other day the lady who stocks the coffee said she had been feeling ill and needed to start thinking about the hereafter. She said he looked like a peaceful person and wanted him to talk with her about it.

This is 1 Peter 3:15 in action. His God-like demeanor caused someone to notice a distinct difference in him and be curious enough to ask what made him that way. He was ready, and gave her the answer for his hope - Jesus.

From these verses it appears that proper communication is paramount in successfully achieving our task of being a witness. When we set our hearts and minds on things above, right words and actions will follow. Philippians 2:14-16a instructs us in this area. It says...

“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life”...

We are to represent our Lord well. If you have Christ as your Savior, you have hope - not only for the future, but to live out the day with peace and joy in your heart. You, too, can be an effective witness.

** GO LIGHT YOUR WORLD **

Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He told His disciples in John 15:26 that He was sending the Counselor, the Spirit of Truth, who goes out from the Father, and that He would testify about Him. The first part of Acts 1:8 says, you will receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.

You see, the Holy Spirit will testify through us! We are prophets, forth-tellers of the wonderful saving power we have experienced. That's what a witness truly is – one who has experienced or seen something. Acts 10:43 reads...

All the prophets **testify about him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His Name."**

If we are saved, there will be EVIDENCE of it. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 says...

... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

Are you concerned with a big title – in Christ's work force you are an Ambassador – doesn't get much better than that. We communicate not only with words, but also with our actions, which often speak louder than our words. Therefore, we need to follow God's instructions for proper behavior listed in Ephesians 5:8-11...

...you were once darkness, but now you are LIGHT in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and FIND OUT WHAT PLEASURES THE LORD. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

Romans 8:8 says that those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

Verse 15 of Ephesians 5 continues...

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery (which is seduction from virtue, duty or allegiance). Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

The Glory we lost when we sinned against God is now inside us through the presence of the Holy Spirit. We can and should proclaim the Lord's Glory as a testimony of the wonderful change in us.

***** PROCLAIM THE GLORY *****

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**Join us on our next program where we'll continue with the
topic – 'HOW TO PLEASE YOUR BOSS'. Until then, let your
grace notes be a song of praise!**