

Rules To Work By

by John Hines

This writer started working, for someone other than mom and dad, when he was fifteen years old. It was kind of exciting and somewhat unnerving, being interviewed for the first time, waiting to find out if I was hired, being given a handbook of expectations, and having responsibilities. It was a good experience though as it was a learning experience. Most young folks spend too much time playing games, and while there is certainly a time to relax and have fun, there is also a time to get to work and put away childish things.

When we look at scripture we realize that there are very good lessons to learn for all aspects of our lives. Look at a few verses and think about a simple applications that might help, for example young people, to have rules to work by.

- o **Show Up Early** – Consider the parable of the virgins in Matthew 25:1-10. Tardy does not fly, in this world or the next. Walking in at the last minute is late. Be early. Showing up late tells people something, namely that you do not want to be there.
- o **Show Up Prepared** – Look at Matthew 25 again. The foolish virgins were there early, the first time, but they were not prepared. Show up ready to work. When it is time to start working it is time to start working. It is not the time to be finishing getting ready.
- o **No Distractions** – *“No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”* (Lk. 9:62). Do you want to have straight rows? Do you want to avoid trouble? Do you want to do a good job? Then no distractions. Put your phone away. Talk to your friends after work. You have a job to do. Do it.
- o **No Backtalk** – *“Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back...”* (Titus 2:9). There is nothing wrong with a conversation, but keep the lip to yourself.
- o **Work Hard Without Supervision** – *“Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers...”* (Eph. 6:5-6). The word “eyeservice” means “sight labor, that is, needs watching” (**Strong’s**). Do not be that kind of worker, for the Lord or anyone else.
- o **Work Hard For Bad Bosses** – *“Servants, be submissive to your master will all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh”* (1 Pet. 2:18). If you need to, seek employment elsewhere, but do it honorably. Wherever you are employed, work, and work hard.
- o **No Shortcuts and No Half-Done Jobs** – *“Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men...”* (Col. 3:23). Things are either good or bad. “Good enough” says an enormous amount about your character to others.
- o **Put In The Extra Effort** – It is the lesson of going the second mile (Matt. 5:41). Some will do exactly what is asked of them but the exceptional will do even more. Learn when it is ok to add to what the boss has told you.

Are there other things you would add to our list? Consider this lesson as well; the Lord never called the lazy to work for Him. When He called those who would be the Apostles, what were they doing? They were busy working. Laziness is contagious to all parts of our lives. Work hard, in this world, and as we prepare for the next, understand that these rules also have a spiritual application.

*via bulletin of the Woodland Church of Christ
Haynesville, Louisiana
August 14, 2016*