

Christ Our Example In Learning To Work

Intro: The world often uses short cuss words, often called “four-letter words.” One four-letter word is **Work**. It is almost as detestable to some as the four-letter words of filthy communication. Let us consider our Lord and work.

I. CHRIST IS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE.

A. Scriptures affirm that Jesus is our example.

1. John 13:15 ¹⁵ “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.”
2. Phi. 2:5 ⁵ “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”
3. 1 Pet. 2:21 ²¹ “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:”
4. 1 John 2:6 ⁶ “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

B. He is our example in work also.

1. He is called the carpenter’s son.
 - a. Mat. 13:55 ⁵⁵ “Is not this the carpenter’s son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?”
 - b. Among the ancient Jews, every father was bound to do four things for his son.
 - (1) To circumcise him.
 - (2) To redeem him.
 - (3) To teach him the law.
 - (4) To teach him a trade.
 - (5) This was founded on the following: “He who teaches not his son to do some work, is as if he taught him robbery!”
 - (6) It is therefore likely that Joseph brought up our Lord to his own trade.
 - c. Mark 6:3 ³ “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.”
2. Jesus also worked in the creation of the world.
 - a. Gen. 1:26 ²⁶ “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”
 - b. John 1:1-3 ¹ “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The same was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

II. GOD CREATED MAN TO WORK.

A. From the beginning God ordained man to work.

1. Gen. 2:15 ¹⁵ “And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”
2. Gen. 3:19 ¹⁹ “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

B. Work was a fundamental part of the Law of Moses.

1. Exo. 20:9 ⁹ “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:”
2. Exo. 23:12 ¹² “Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed.”

C. The New Testament commands that we work.

1. 1 The. 4:11 ^{“11} And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;”
2. Eph. 4:28 ^{“28} Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”
3. Concerning younger widows, when they cast off their first faith; 1 Tim. 5:13 ^{“13} And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.”

D. If someone does not work.

1. 2 The. 3:10 ^{“10} For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”
2. We have developed a nation of dependents.
 - a. We teach our children that the world owes them a living, instead of their responsibility.
 - b. Our welfare society has shown the evils of giving without any expectation of work.

III. CHRIST IS OUR EXAMPLE IN THE FATHER’S BUSINESS.

A. Jesus knew His true work.

1. At 12 He was in the temple: Luke 2:49 ^{“49} And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”
2. John 4:34 ^{“34} Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”
3. John 5:36 ^{“36} But I have greater witness than *that* of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.”
4. John 9:4 ^{“4} I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

B. Jesus completed that work.

1. John 15:24 ^{“24} If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.”
2. John 17:4 ^{“4} I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”
3. John 19:30 ^{“30} When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”
4. Heb. 5:8-9 ^{“8} Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”

C. He calls upon us to do His work.

1. John 6:28-29 ^{“28} Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? ²⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”
2. Eph. 2:10 ^{“10} For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
3. Tit. 2:14 ^{“14} Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

Conclusion: At the end of Paul’s life he could say 2 Tim. 4:7-8, ^{“7} I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” As our perfect example finished His work, so let us finish our work so we may have that crown of righteousness awaiting us.