

Work and Worship

A. Introduction

Colossians 3:17–4:1 (ESV)

¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. ¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. ²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. ¹ Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

B. Working Hard in All of Your Vocations from God: We wear many different hats and each should be done to the glory of God

1. Different (holy, divine) roles or vocations such as father, husband, son, employee or manager/boss.
2. Working hard at different activities:
3. **Proverbs 12:24** The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.
4. **Exodus 15:26** saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer.”
5. **Deuteronomy 4:9** “Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life.
6. **Deuteronomy 6:7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
7. **Deuteronomy 19:18** The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely,
8. **Proverbs 8:17**: I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.
9. **I Timothy 4:14** Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Practice these things, immerse yourself in

them,[c] so that all may see your progress. 16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

10. **Proverbs 13:24** Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.
11. **Proverbs 21:5** he plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.
12. **I Corinthians 14:1** Pursue love and earnestly desire the gifts of the Spirit.
13. **2 Peter 1:10** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.
14. **2 Peter 3:14** Therefore beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.
15. Questions to ask other men and yourself: How are you doing at working hard at these different areas of life - parenting, marriage, school work, ministry, planning, evangelism? Are you working hard at them?

C. Working Hard as Servants of God

1. **Mark 10:** Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
2. Focus on your responsibilities and opportunities to serve and bless others.

D. Working Hard as Worshippers of God: Work as Worship

1. Working heartily to the Lord:
 - a. Work with all your soul
 - b. Let your hearts be in your work, with your whole being, work at it with all your heart
 - c. Let all that is within me...
 - d. Put everything that you have and are into everything that you do
 - e. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.
2. Our work is worship. God is worthy to be lived for and to do all things for including our work.

E. Application

1. Work joyfully and in the other fruit of the Spirit including love.
2. Work prayerfully and dependent on God's power.
3. Be filled with the Spirit.