PROTIPS

Christians in the Workplace: A Witness for Christ by Marlene Legaspi-Munar

Not all of us are called to work inside a church setting but many of us fit perfectly in the field of business, arts, science and technology, media, other service-oriented professions and a lot more. Bagamat tayo'y nagtatrabaho, maaari pa rin tayong maglingkod sa Panginoon--sa loob mismo ng ating pinagtatrabahuhan. We can serve God in our workplace by being a witness for Jesus Christ. Paano ka magiging isang magandang patotoo sa iyong pinagtatrabahuhan? Narito ang ilang areas na dapat mong tingnan:

First**, submission to authorities.** Kahit ano pa ang uri ng ating trabaho, empleyado man tayo, self-employed o amo, ang Panginoong Diyos ang ating pinaglilingkuran. Siya ang ating boss. We should obey God's commands and principles in the way we conduct our business. Also, part of God's commands for us is to obey those earthly authorities over us. Kaya dapat lang nating galangin at sundin ang ating mga employers o amo dito sa lupa. At huwag natin kalilimutang ipanalangin sila para maging mabuti at mahusay silang pinuno.

Second**, social relationships.** Jesus Christ said that we are the salt of the earth and the light of this world. Tulad ng asin, dapat tayong magbigay ng lasa at tumulong para mapanatili ang kaayusan sa upisina. We can do this through our speech. By speaking words of wisdom, we can be an encouragement to our coworkers. By warning others, we can also save them from harm. Also by being a good example, baka mahikayat natin silang gumawa din ng mabuti. You must also accept that not all people may like you, but that shouldn't stop you from doing good to them and praying for them.

Third**, stewardship of time, talent and treasure.** Bilang mga Cristiano hindi tayo nandadaya sa oras. Pumapasok tayo at umuuwi sa takdang panahon. Nagsisick leave kung talagang maysakit at di text nang text kapag office hours, maliban na lang kung official business. A Christian strives to do his or her best

according to God's grace. Di puwede ang maski paps, o maski papaano na lang sa trabaho. Pinag-iigi dapat talaga. At dahil meron siyang malasakit sa kanyang amo at mga katrabaho, iniingatan niya at sinisinop ang mga gamit sa upisina. Ganito ka ba?

Finally, let's look at how a Christian should look at him**self** . A Christian should realize that he is a servant of God and of the people he or she works for. Dahil dito, ang Diyos ang pagtiwalaan natin patungkol sa ating mga salary, promotion o status. Be modest at huwag mong kunin ang lahat ng credits at ipagmalaki ang iyong success. We are what we are by God's grace. Nariyan ka sa iyong kinalalagyan hindi lang para maging isang productive na tao kungdi para maging patotoo ng Panginoong JesuCristo. So wait patiently also for the opportunity for verbal witness. Maging patotoo ka sa iyong gawa at sa iyong salita.

PROTIPS

Christians in the Workplace: Office Politics by Marlene Legaspi-Munar

When people hear the words "office politics", kungdi sila nangingimi, nakukunsumi sila. Most people are annoyed by office politics because it is viewed as a tool by others to get what they want, tulad ng promotion or project, regardless of what's good for their coworkers or for their company. Kapag sinabing pulitika, karaniwang naiisip ng mga tao, marumi at pakubli ang mga pamamaraan. This may be true in some instances. But some professionals think may good side din ang office politics.

Some professionals think that office politics could launch campaigns for things that matter to people other than themselves. Sabi nga ni Allan Cohen, isang management professor at dean of faculty ng Babson College, "Politics is the art of trying to accomplish things within an organization." Obserbasyon naman ni Marilyn Moats Kennedy, isang career coach sa Illinois, "Workers rarely compete for powers--especially power…over others. Instead of power, people want

assignment that build skills valued by the market. Learning experiences are what's really important." Another professor at Harvard made this observation. "Integrity can be a source of power."

We can not deny that office politics is one of the issues na kinakaharap ng mga Cristianong manggagawa saanman sila nagtatrabaho. So how should Christians deal with politics in the office? Ang malinaw na sinasabi sa Bibliya ay dapat nating talikdan ang likong pamumuhay at mamuhay tayo nang maayos, matuwid at karapat-dapat sa Diyos. We should honor God as we deal with difficult bosses or coworkers, as we lead organizations and as we determine how best to apply our organization's policies. We should do things in a way that reflects our love for God and others while respecting the differences in our work environment. Nasa sa inyong masusing pagpapasya kung paano ito magagawa.

But in the meantime,let me share with you some of the rules for office politics given by Rob Sarmiento, Ph.D., in the website www.cyberpsych.com. Here they are:

Don't make enemies.
Don't whine and complain.
Don't intimidate superiors. Try to see things from their perspective.
Don't make others look bad.
Don't criticize employees for personal gain.
Help others get what they want.
Find common ground with others.
Create win/win solution.
Cultivate a positive, simple, accurate image. Let Christ reign in your life and use you as a positive influence in your workplace.

PROTIPS

Christians in the Workplace: Competition by Marlene Legaspi-Munar

We live in a world where there is constant competition. Sa eskuwelahan, may mga estudyanteng nag-uunahan para sa puwestong first honor o valedictorian. Sa ating community, naglalaban-laban ang mga barangay para sa titulong "Cleanest and Greenest Barangay". And dami na ngayong mga beauty contests na di lang para sa mga kababaihan, kungdi para na rin sa mga kalalakihan. Ang mga istasyon naman ng telebisyon at radyo ay nag-uunahan sa pagsasabing sila ang Number One. At di kataka-takang sa larangan ng negosyo, mayroon ding competition.

Ideally, competition should motivate us to do well. It should cause us to bring out the best in us. Maganda ang kumpetisyon kung gayon. However, nagiging unhealthy and destructive ang competition when people do not put it in the right perspective. Kung nais mo mang sumali sa isang contest o magsumikap na maging number one sa iyong larangan, alalahanin mo ang mga paalalang ito:

Una, **compete against a standard.** Though you may be competing against many others, do not focus on these people as the ones you have to defeat. Ang pag-ukulan mo ng pansin ay ang batayan o standard na kailangan mong abutin. In a race, the clock is the standard. In a literary contest, it's the criteria for judging. Huwag kang sumali sa isang kumpetisyon dahil lang gusto mong talunin ang isang tao.

Pangalawa, **compete according to the rules of the game.** Many feel frustrated because they always lose the game. Maaaring matalo ang isang tao dahil kulang siya sa kakayahan. Pero maaari ring matalo ang isang tao dahil hindi siya marunong sumunod sa patakaran. Anyone competing should follow ***all*** the rules of the game. A literary critic and judge of a literary contest in the country said that many literary pieces are eliminated right away because they fail to observe even just one of the rules of the contest. So kung gusto mong magkaroon ng tsansang manalo, alamin at sundin mo ang lahat ng mga patakaran ng iyong sinasalihan.

Pangatlo, **compete honestly.** Don't put others down or cheat. Walang saysay ang panalong dulot ng pandaraya.

Pang-apat, **compete to better yourself.** Sabi nga natin, competition can bring out the best in you. Not only in terms of skills and talents, but competition can also force you to be more disciplined. It will also put your character to the test. Masusubukan ang iyong pasensya, kapakumbabaan, tiyaga, at tiwala sa Diyos. Tandaan natin na hiwalay sa Diyos wala tayong magagawa. It is God who gives us the power, the strength, the wisdom and the favor in the sight of men. Kaya iwasan mo ring ikumpara ang iyong sarili sa iba. Most often, comparing yourself with others will just disappoint you. Instead, you must see yourself the way God sees you. Run the race God has set for you., be concerned with what He wants you to do.