

Protips Weekly Volume 9

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Congratulations to Pamela Tejero, Cirilo Pineda and Ramil Infante for being chosen as our featured Protips letter writers for February. Each of them won a “Lead Like Jesus” gift pack courtesy of Church Strengthening Ministry.

“It’s a blessing that I get to be a part of a carpool where I first heard about Protips. I feel like I’m reborn whenever I listen to you. My thinking becomes pure with all the protips you share.” - Pam Tejero, Cavite

“I first learned about your program when someone gave me a cassette radio. As my wife and I prepare our kids for school everyday, we turn our radio to DZAS. The first lesson I heard was about living a disciplined life. I got excited and since then I listen to your daily. I record your lessons on my cell phone, listen to it over and over as I travel...You make the Bible easy to understand and real to live by. I want to inform you that I started sharing these pointers in my exhortation in church.” - Ptr. Ramil Infante, Pandacan

“Palagi kaming nakikinig ng inyong radio program. Almost every morning kapag papasok kami sa office...We find your topics very useful sa office. Member din kasi ako ng committee sa office where we discuss matters related to productivity improvement and inter-personal relationship in the workplace. Naibabahagi ko minsan ang mga dini-discuss mo sa radio.” - Cirilo Pineda, Los Banos Laguna

Avoiding Illicit Affairs in the Workplace

A few years ago, we had a series here on Protips about romance in the workplace. While it is true that many beautiful relationships have blossomed in the workplace, the sad reality is, illicit affairs also happen in many office settings..

How can you avoid being the next victim of these problematic and illegal affairs? First, let’s look at several passages from the Bible to understand why we should shun away from extramarital affairs.

Proverbs 5:3-9 gives us a stern warning, “The lips of an immoral woman are as sweet as hone, and her mouth is smoother than oil. But the result is as bitter as poison, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. For she does not care about the path to life. She staggers down a crooked trail and doesn’t even realize where it leads. So now, my sons, listen to me. Never stray from what I am about to say: Run from her!

Don't go near the door of her house! If you do, you will lose your honor and hand over to merciless people everything you have achieved in life."

Exodus 20:14 reminds us of the 7th commandment, "You shall not commit adultery." And Proverbs 4:23 tells us that, "Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do."

How can you avoid being involved in illicit affairs? Here are five simple but very helpful tips:

1) Make known to everyone what your civil status is. If you are married, wear your wedding ring all the time. Display your family picture on your desk. Now, if you are single and a married person is making you his "target", remind him of his status and family obligations.

2) Don't entertain men or women who are showing you extra-ordinary care of attention.

It may be flattering, especially if you are not given this special attention at home. But don't play with fire if you don't want to be burned.

3) Watch your words. Don't joke about infidelity. Your defenses against temptation weaken when you take sin lightly. An Extra-marital affair is no laughing matter. You won't be laughing if it hits your marriage. Just consider the pain and destruction that it will cause you, your spouse and children.

4) Know what you value most. An illicit affair may give you temporary pleasure but is it worth the troubles that you will cause your family? What is most important to you?

5) Cling to God, cling to your family. Be open to God about your struggles and don't fight it alone. You need God's supernatural strength to flee from temptation. Be honest with your spouse and tell him or her of your needs.

Dealing with Illicit Affairs in the Workplace (When you are not party to the relationship)

Avoid gossiping about the relationship.

Pray for the people involved.

Approach the parties involved especially if they are your friends.

- Share God's word to them because only the truth can set them free from the lies and deception of marital infidelity. The way of the world can only be countered by the way of the Word.

Review/revisit your company's policies about personnel decorum.

- Remind those in HR to reinforce family values or family orientation

Trust that God is in control of the situation. No problem is too big for Him to handle.

Marks of a Lazy Person

One of the responsibilities of supervisors and managers is to be able to identify people who have great potentials. It is also their role to spot non-performers in the team. In other words, lazy workers! What are the marks of a lazy person? Proverbs 26:13-16 gives us four clear pointers.

1) A lazy person is full of incredible excuses and he believes those excuses.
v. 13 "The lazy person is full of excuses, saying, 'I can't go outside because there might be a lion on the road! Yes, I'm sure there's a lion out there!"

2) A lazy person does not have a sense of urgency and so wasting time is not a serious matter to him.
v. 14 "As a door turns back and forth on its hinges, so the lazy person turns over in bed."

3) A lazy person has no strength to do even simple things to meet his basic needs.
v. 15 "Some people are so lazy that they won't lift a finger to feed themselves."

4) A lazy person tries to justify laziness by thinking that it is wiser to do nothing than to tire oneself.
v. 16 "Lazy people consider themselves smarter than seven wise counselors."

Learning Business from Abraham Genesis 24:1-9

We know Abraham as the patriarch, a great man of faith, a famous character from the Bible. But have you considered that this man was also a successful businessman and an influential leader?

We can actually learn a lot from him when it comes to effective employer-employee relationship. Here are three observations that I'd like to share with you from my reading of Genesis 24:1-9.

1) In every employer-employee relationship, TRUST is important. You show your trust to your people through the degree of difficulty or sensitivity of the responsibility that you assign to them.

(v1-2) "Abraham was now a very old man, and the Lord had blessed him in every way. One day Abraham said to the man in charge of his household, who was his oldest servant..."

2) When you assign a project to your staff, secure their commitment. There must be a memorandum of agreement or memorandum of understanding. Before commitment is sought, give your people a chance to clarify and state expectations.

(v3-9) "Swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not let my son marry one of these local Canaanite women. Go instead to my homeland, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son Isaac. The servant asked, "But suppose I can't find a young woman who will travel so far from home? May I then take Isaac there to live among your relatives?" "No!" Abraham warned. "Be careful never to take my son there... If she is unwilling to come back with you, then you are free from this oath. But under no circumstances are you to take my son there. So the servant took a solemn oath that he would follow Abraham's instructions."

3) In all of your transactions, always remind your people of the God factor. Abraham reminded his servant of God's promise. He reminded his servant of what God has already done and what He can do.

(v 6) "For the Lord, the God of heaven, who took from my father's house and my native land, solemnly promised to give this land to my offspring. He will send his angel ahead of you, and he will see to it that you find a young woman there to be my son's wife."