



# Ability

## Principles

- God is not impressed by or dependent upon our abilities or accomplishments. But if we do our work for His sake, it pleases Him in the same way the drawings children make for their parents decorate the refrigerator. These drawings are not valued because they qualify to hang in an art gallery, but because of the parent's relationship with the children who made them. (Ephesians 6:7-8)
- It is God who gives us our ability (Romans 12:6), our intelligence (Daniel 2:21), our ability to create wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18), and our promotions (Psalm 75:6-7).
- A man skilled in his work will come before the kings. (Proverbs 22:29) All honest professions are honorable, and there is dignity in manual as well as mental work, as is evident from the occupations of the characters of the Bible. Scripture rebukes idleness and sloth and affirms that work has genuine value (Ecclesiastes 2:24; 3:12-13; 5:18).
- When we seek to glorify God in whatever we do (1 Corinthians 10:31), we will pursue excellence in our work, whether others notice or not. When we do our work heartily unto the Lord (Col 3:23) it should be done with excellence and to the best of our abilities.
- We are called to do our work as unto the Lord instead of seeking to impress and please people (Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:23-24). Employers should see themselves as accountable to Christ for the way they treat their employees (Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 4:1).
- When work is done in and for the Lord, it benefits others and honors God. It is in creative activity that we externalize our identities as people made in the image of God. Our identity transcends our work, and if we do not derive our identity from our relationship with the Lord, our work will tend to shape and define us.
- True importance is not found in position or prestige, but in the manner in which our work is done and the Audience for whom we do it. Significance is not determined by wisdom, power, or wealth (Jeremiah 9:23-24; Philippians 3:8), but by our relationship with God. Because of this, it is always a mistake to compare ourselves with others. God will test our work and reward us accordingly. (1 Corinthians 3:13-15).
- There should be no secular/spiritual duality regarding work. God has promised that the product of our work will ultimately perish (2 Peter 3:10). It is not the fruit of our labors

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### Definition

**ABILITY** to please God and serve others through the development and excellence of your *Work Skills*.

### Paradigm Shift

The shift from chasing security and success to stewarding God's resources to serve others through our work





but the focus of our heart that gives value to our work in the sight of God. Thus, “secular” work becomes spiritual when it is done to please God, and “religious” work becomes secular when it is done to please and impress people.

### **Application**

- We are to please God in how we work which means it is done with excellence and to the best of our ability. The process of how we work is as important as or more than the product of our work. Our skills when done with excellence set us apart from most other workers and from most of the world.
- We should desire to learn, grow and improve ourselves in order to do our best and provide value to our companies, people and glorify the Lord. This requires humility and putting others ahead of our own interests. Serving is not competing and comparing to get ahead, but building up and helping others succeed also.
- A by-product of excellent work often is greater personal satisfaction and greater economic reward which gives us an opportunity for generosity.

### **Key Ideas**

Excellence  
Service  
Skills

