

## **HOW WE WORK**

-Ryan Parsons-

Discipling boys in work ethic in the twenty-first century is challenging. Thankfully, we recently had the opportunity to work on a project together that was big, messy, and seemingly unimportant. Yet, throughout a couple of weeks, the topic of "why?" entered the picture more than once. I think it surprised them that the answer wasn't "because I said so!" It was more than that.

Scripture has much to say about work. However, our work is not simply the quality of output. It is the motivation behind the very work we are doing. In letters to both Ephesus and Colossae, Paul addresses the work ethic we have in Christ. As he addresses bondservants, he slips in another truth. As followers of Christ, it doesn't matter who you are; the work ethic should be the same. Why? Because the one we are truly working for is our Lord.

### Ephesians 6

5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.

### Colossians 3

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.

Fast forward three weeks, and a report of our work was received. Come to find out; our Kingdom work ethic had led to a job done above and beyond what was expected. What a witness it is to the world to zealously work hard in a way that pleases God first!

### Colossians 3:17

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.

We have another work week in front of us. May God be praised in and by all our work.

Hesed,  
Ryan