

The Biblical Believer

Titus 2:4-10

Sociologist **Bradley Wright** research of Christian & non Christian workers. The variable that predicts workplace behavior isn't the Christian label but the degree to which faith is internally motivated versus externally performed

A genuine Christian worldview, where work is seen as a calling & workers as image-bearers w/ integrity as non-negotiable before God produces a measurably different workers. But that describes a minority even w/in Christianity.

John 12:46 *"I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness.***47** *"And if anyone hears My sayings, and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. 48* *"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.***49** *"For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak. 50* *"And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."*

Extensive research by the Barna Group **spiritual trends** highlights the **"lifestyle gap"** between Christians & non-Christians, frequently finding that **the actual behavior of many self-identified Christians differ very little from the general public.** Indicating that religious identity alone does not guarantee a comprehensively different way of life, & that the impact of faith is often limited unless believers intentionally translate biblical principles into daily practice. **24 hr fitness--training, health & fitness-not sit & watch-church**

Not to shame but warn...know by fruit...**Matt 7:20** *"So then, you will know them by their fruits.***21** *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. 22* *"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23* *"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'* **Religious but w/o relationship**

What a biblical Christian looks like from older men to....

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

Held high & honorable positions. *Likewise* includes instructions to older men vs 2 plus these additions...last message on our website

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Teaching what is good – Mature older women by word & example have extraordinary influence on younger ladies who aspire to a godly lifestyle

4 that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.

Not inhibiting gifting, calling, entrepreneurial spirit—Proverbs 31 woman does both **13 She looks for wool and flax, And works with her hands in delight. 14 She is like merchant ships; She brings her food from afar. 15 She rises also while it is still night, And gives food to her household, And portions to her maidens. 16 She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard. 17 She girds herself with strength, And makes her arms strong. 18 She senses that her gain is good; Her lamp does not go out at night.**

But she doesn't sacrifice home :1-9 for enterprise :13-18 Temple prostitution in ancient world...Ishtar; Venus; Aphrodite

Greatest influence a mother has is in the home w/ her husband & children. Her sacrificial offering to God is her family. The fruit is **God's work** thru those she has nurtured. **Illus great men Abraham Lincoln** "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." **Martin Luther King Jr** taught him the importance of dignity, self-worth, and resisting systemic injustice. **John Wesley** lead revival movement within Church of England known as Methodism. **Susanna Wesley** homeschooled all 19 children & credited for her theological influence on John and Charles.

C.S. Lewis His early intellectual & spiritual formation was heavily shaped by his mother Flora before her death when he was just 9. **Thomas Edison** His mother Nancy removed him from school after a teacher called him "addled, **unable to think** homeschooled him, & convinced him he was intelligent. Edison later said she "**made me feel I was worth something.**" **Chuck**

Love & tender atmosphere of home. Paul says needs to be taught, *train-admonish NKV* hold her to this duty. Natural affection is there but self-sacrificing love that Jesus showed--she needs to learn. Christian home was totally new to saved pagan women

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Sensible - healthy mind, in control of emotions & impulses. Thinkling right so she acts right-**Karen-privileged person who demands to speak to manager, captain-flaunts entitlement, weaponizes privilege to police, harasses people** As you are so will your children be--if no self control don't expect it from them.

Pure – *to the pure all things are pure*. Having a mind & heart unpolluted by worldliness. Not fill minds w/ soap operas, Globe, Star, Celeb gossip- Whatever poisons purity. **Matt 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

Workers at home – Not a prisoner in the home but a manager. One who guides & directs activities & temperature of home. Husband the head wife the heart of the home.

Subject to own husband – Military term rank under--He as head, she positionally to rank under—he not better but greater in responsibility & blame for home. Demeaning for a man to feel he has to fight for the right to be head & lead. The woman's management of the home is not an excuse to ignore God's instruction to be subject to her husband. **Husband to love wife as Christ loved...gave life**

Eph 5:22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. Col 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Christian church & home should have world say—I want what they have- better life, better marriage, better kids, a happier life.

Word not dishonored – after declaring ourselves Christians, then having a breakdown in the home w/ shouting matches, threats of divorce, unruly children, w/ neighbors & co-workers look on---is a mockery of the faith we claim & dishonor to God & the church

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6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; 7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, 8 sound In speech which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us. 9 Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

Likewise connects younger men w/ what so far has been written. What they need to learn is not different from what others learn. The need for godliness is the same for all ages & stages of life. A change of emphasis is needed at different seasons of life.

Sensible Describes a person who has everything under control, a strength of mind which has learned to direct every instinct & passion to God until all is put in its proper place & not having free reign in young mans life.

7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,

Teaching others is the easy part, living before them is the challenge. Titus' teaching was only as good as his *example*. *Tupos* pattern, imprint by hitting engraving tool w/ a hammer. Often more caught than taught.

Good deeds-watch his actions what does he actually do or all talk no walk

Pure in doctrine Doctrinal integrity, stability & longevity—what bible says it means. W/o ulterior motives, own agenda, self promotion, not twisting scripture to make it say what you want.

Dignified – not aloof or prideful but conscious of responsibility that comes w/ call to position of leading God's sheep.

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Speech that can't be laid hold of – knows what he is saying before he says it, declaring truth & not his own opinions. ***Keep the main thing the main thing.*** Getting on soap box to promote some strange idea or new unbiblical revelation ruins ministries gives opponents reason to criticize condemn church and word of God. Greatest compliment of any ministry is to say they are too biblical.

Opponent – adversary-there will always be bible critics, enemies of the cross who have their guns pointed & ready to shoot. But don't give them ammunition, live & teach in such a way that contrary people can't find grounds of accusation. As Jesus said to his detractors ***'Which one of you convicts me of sin? Jn 8:46.*** The effect is they go away ashamed.

9 Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

Bondslave – Christian worker--work & worship intertwined-good workers are often good worshipers—poor workers are poor worshipers

posers—Centurions learned principle of faith, discipline & authority on the job—who became worshipers: Cornelius, Greater faith, At cross

Be subject military term to rank under--follow their lead in all things-***15 yrs old rubbing rails.*** Following prepares you to lead. ***In everything*** the boss is not omniscient but being boss have right to be wrong at times.

Well pleasing---boss knows you dependable, given a task & boss can forget about it, count on you until it's done. You show results, keep informed so boss can move forward on other projects-***Reconciliation.***

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If boss has to look over your shoulder make sure you are doing what supposed to, keep reminding you, following up, you make excuses, not getting job done it's frustrating & have to give job to someone else. We need to be better Jesus than for world. We witness Christ on the job-Ex.

Pr 25:19 Like a bad tooth and an unsteady foot is confidence in a faithless man in time of trouble....

Boss not have to think twice about loyalty. It top priority next to skill. Can teach skill can't teach loyalty. If not loyal, no peace, no confidence, always wondering, watching to see if & when disloyalty will show itself. Very troubling for a leader to sense a lack of loyalty.

1Pet 2:18-21 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. 19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. 21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

Not argumentative—contradicting—you may know more about a particular aspect of a job than the boss & give your opinion but if boss hears & wants to do his way then go along w/o grumbling or complaining. You made your case, it rejected so don't talk behind bosses back or hope his plan fails so 'I told you so. Bosses do learn & willing to hear you out next time. But some have a contrary attitude in everything. Skill can be learned but attitude comes from the heart.

Not pilfering-not stealing—Wal-Mart world's largest retailer losses 2 Bill in employee theft & shoplifting every year. According to the National Retail Federation's 2025 report, total retail represents an estimated \$132 billion in

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losses. **Employee theft** is a massive issue for businesses today, costing companies an estimated \$50 billion annually. Approximately 67% of employees admit to committing some form of workplace theft, w/ time theft & the misuse of company supplies. Saying ***I deserve it--they won't miss it--I've earned it--they have more than they need.*** If you are a thief in a little you will be a thief in a lot, given the opportunity.

Eph 4: 28 Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.

Gum in agape box... ***your robbing God in tithes and offerings--stop thief'***

Showing all good faith – living faith not just saying it. Actions speak louder than words..we ***adorn*** the doctrine of Christ, bring beauty to Jesus words by our life in every respect, in everything.

Next the appearing of Christ