

Life Lessons

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How to Keep Your Job in a Down Economy?

Jobs are tough to keep these days. Multi-million dollar corporate giants are shutting their doors. The global financial meltdown means people that had stable jobs for 20 or 30 years are being let go or having to take severe pay cuts. Unemployment is at its all time high. In these turbulent times how can we as Christians continue to survive and even thrive? I'm talking promotion! I believe doing just a few ordinary things in an extraordinary fashion will bring you tremendous favor and advance your career.

1. Be a person of excellence. Customer service and excellence are rare qualities to be found in the work place today, especially among Christians. We can quote Bible verses but can't consistently make it to work on time. We can win religious debates but we're no match for the number one spot in productivity. Listen to what the scriptures say about David, "Who is **skillful** in playing (the harp)." (1 Sam. 16:18). Friend, if we do our work as a service and ministry unto the Lord (Col. 3:23-24), we will do it with excellence! It will make us stand out. **Going the extra mile will make your boss notice you. The more your boss can depend on you the more secure your job will be!**

2. Be a problem solver. (Matthew 14:14-16). Most people can complain and point fingers at what's wrong. How about becoming a problem solver instead? Take Cinda for example. Cinda is a merchandiser. She is also one of the most common people you'll ever meet. You won't see her unless you visit her tiny corner. But if there was one person who knows where a certain product is, it is Cinda. She is organized and excels at getting merchandise in the right place. When Cinda got a better job offer, managers begged her to stay. Why? Cinda provided a valuable solution to her company. **You can create such demand for yourself by solving problems and doing it exceptionally well.**

3. Show some character. (Psalm 1:1-3). When times are tough, it's easy to criticize, complain and gossip. Don't fall into that

trap! When others are slandering the company, you can chime in and say, "I'm so grateful to have this job." Don't jump on the bandwagon of gossip and juicy stories being spread around about your boss or a co-worker. **Remember, if you don't stop it, the next juicy story going around will be about you!**

4. Develop a Personal Relationship. (Proverbs 18:16). While it is important to maintain professionalism, it's also crucial that you know your boss and more importantly, that your boss knows you! You can do this simply by being visible. Break the fear of man. Give occasional compliments or even a non-personal gift. **Befriend your supervisor. Remember, it's a lot easier to fire an employee than to fire a friend!**

5. Be Open to Change. (1 Pet. 2:18). Recently I heard a story how the Swiss watch companies controlled 90% of the market up until the end of World War II. They're the best in making precision watches. But in late 60's researchers presented them with a new kind of watch - an electronic watch with batteries. The Swiss managers rejected the new technology immediately. They said, "This watch will never sell." Why? Because it wasn't what they were used to. They were closed minded. The researchers took the same invention to an international watch fair and two companies that had nothing to do with watches saw the potential and quickly bought the rights to this new invention. Before long, they controlled the market share of watches sold around the world. What's the point? Be flexible. Stay open to new ideas. **When something new comes your way, be open to embrace it. It could be your next ladder to success!**

Here are a few simple things done every day that will separate you from the rest. Come to work on time consistently (call if you're late occasionally). Be a team player. **Have a positive attitude. Improve your skills.** Excel at what you do. Remember, **YOUR WORK IS YOUR MINISTRY IN THE MARKET PLACE!**