



## BREAKING THE ICE

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What was the best job you ever had?

What was the worst job you ever had?

If you could choose any job what would you choose and why?

## MAIN CONTENT

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This week Pastor Chris talked about what it looks like to have honor in our workplace. When God created man, He gave man a job. They were to tend the garden and name all the animals. God intended for us to not sit idle and to find joy in our work and then rest. But throughout time, we have decided our work defines us.

1. When you are introducing yourself to someone new, how do you describe yourself? Do you mention your occupation? Is that the thing that defines you the most? Explain.

God never intended for us to find our security in our jobs, we are to find it in Him. He also doesn't want us to find our identity in what we do. Again, our identity is found in being connected to Him. Pastor Chris said, "When we look to God for only the things He can provide, we bring Him honor. When we invite Him into our insecurities and fear, we bring Him honor. And once we've brought God honor, we posture ourselves to receive God's wisdom and equipping to bring honor to our workplace".

2. What does bringing honor to your workplace look like to you?

We spend an average of 34 hours a week at work, and more hours at home working. In those hours we can tend to get frustrated with co-workers and our boss. But it's how we handle those frustrations that matters. Do we honor one another in our workplace or do we let negativity take over?

Bringing honor to our workplace is something we choose to do. It's something we have to work towards. Jesus teaches us about honor. He teaches to be the walk in love and be the same person everywhere we go, to live an integrated life.

3. Is your life more compartmentalized, you act different at work then you do with friends or do you live an integrated life where you are the same person at all times?

Read Philippians 2:1-8

We are called to honor others above ourselves. We are called to speak kindly about others, to elevate them.

In a work environment we can choose to engage in the gossip, continue in the negativity or we can choose to honor.

In essence, anyone can be a thermometer to feel and react in the negativity. Jesus called us to be a thermostat to change the temperature of the room.

4. Do you tend to be a thermometer or a thermostat?

When we choose to ignore the gossip and to practice reverse gossip (speaking kindly of others) we change the thermostat where we work.

The other thing we have to be aware of in our workplace is entitlement. We aren't entitled to that promotion, we aren't entitled to the recognition. Entitlement is a thief. It robs you of your joy.

Gratitude creates space for joy. When we have a heart of gratitude, we live a life full of honor.

5. Do you have a heart of entitlement or gratitude? How can you have more gratitude in your workplace?

You will never feel grateful for something you feel entitled to. Jesus was entitled to everything yet He lived his life grateful for everything.

Philippians 2:14-16 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.

To have honor in our workplace we need to stop complaining. We know it's complaining when we talk to someone that can't do anything about the issue. And the more we complain, the more disunity we plant. Complaining tries to get someone on our side. Honor says we are on the same team.

6. What kind of complaining do you participate in your workplace? (Complaining to those who can't do anything or complaining to find solutions to the problem)

When we stop complaining and start looking for solutions we create a space to honor others. We honor

people in the workplace because that is what Jesus did. We want to be like Jesus at work, at school, with our families and in our friend group. We want to live a life integrated to be like Jesus to all people all the time. And part of the way we do that is to love and honor others.

When we honor others it creates space for God to move. God is worthy of our honor and if we want to be more like Jesus we should choose honor in all areas of our life.

7. Who do you need to honor in your workplace?

## CLOSING PRAYER

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Father God, thank-you for honoring us when we don't always deserve it. Will you show us when our hearts aren't right in our workplace. Will you help us replace gossip with reverse gossip? Will you help us to not feel entitled for anything but grateful for all that you have given us. Will you help us look at the whole picture and stop complaining and seek solutions instead of grumbling. Thank-you for honoring us and please help us honor others as you honor each one of us. In Jesus name, Amen.

## ACTION STEP

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- + Pray and ask God who you need to honor at work this week. Send them some encouragement through an email or conversation.
- + Take notice about your conversations at work this week. Are you engaging in gossip? How can you practice reverse gossip this week?
- + Watch how you complain. Are you complaining and grumbling to anyone that can help the situation?
- + Ask God where you are feeling entitled. Ask Him to give you a heart of gratefulness.