

A Good Work Ethic

MY DAD INSTILLED a strong work ethic in me and my siblings, and I desire to do the same for my child. Some children are brought up with more emphasis on “Play” than on work. Entertainment (TV, Movies, Games, etc.) has a proper place in our lives, and the lives of our children; but too much emphasis on these things can damage a child’s work ethic.

Our Father in heaven has always enjoined upon His children a good, strong work ethic. *“The soul of the lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich”* (Proverbs 13:4). Many of the proverbs address the concept of hard work as opposed to slothfulness. Proverbs 10:4; 12:24; 21:5 all address this issue. *“Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger”* (Proverbs 19:15).

The New Testament is not silent on this issue. *“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat”* (2 Thessalonians 3:10). In Ephesians 4:28, we are commanded to find an honorable job so that we might have something to give those who have need. But it’s more than just having a job, one must be a hard-working employee, laboring as if the Lord Himself were his boss (Colossians 3:22-24).

In addition to an over-immersion of entertainment, there are other pitfalls when discussing a good work ethic. Gambling violates the golden rule of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you (Matthew 7:12). It also violates the fair compensation concept in that the gambler is seeking to take something from someone without giving them anything in return. This is why many refer to gambling as “Stealing by consent.” But what’s worse, gambling instills into our youth the concept of getting something for nothing. This is one of the great woes of legalizing a state lottery.

Another pitfall is the danger of overworking. Some are known as “Workaholics.” They spend too much time in the workplace to the neglect of other important responsibilities in life, such as their wife and children. *“Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease!”* (Proverbs 23:4). Other translations of this verse bear out the essential meaning to include the concept of making riches your goal when working. Those who work just because they want to be rich will work too much and neglect other essential areas of their lives.

May God grant us wisdom in teaching our children the proper balance between overworking and under-working that would glorify God and benefit them throughout life.

-Michael Pickford
Mpickford3@comcast.net

Employment

*“The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing;
But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.”*

-Proverbs 13:4

“He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.”

-Proverbs 10:4

“Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”

-Ephesians 4:28

“The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.”

-Proverbs 12:24

“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.”

-2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

*“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty,
But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.”*

-Proverbs 21:5

“Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.”

-Ephesians 6:5-7

“Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.”

-1 Timothy 6:1-2

“Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.”

-Titus 2:9-10

“Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease!”

-Proverbs 23:4

“Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, And an idle person will suffer hunger.”

-Proverbs 19:15