

Equip and Deploy

The Church's Mission and our Calling

[11] And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (ESV)

- Ephesians 4:11-16

[17] Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands! (ESV)

- Psalm 90:17

[10] When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices,
and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness.
(ESV)

- Proverbs 11:10

[31] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. [32] Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33] And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. [34] Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. [35] For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36] I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ [37] Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?’

[38] And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? [39] And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' [40] And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

[41] "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. [42] For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44] Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'

[45] Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (ESV)

- Matthew 25:31-46

“The place of discipleship is wherever I am now. It’s whatever I am now, and whatever I am doing now...when I go to work at USC and I walk into class, that’s my place of discipleship. That’s the place where I am learning from Jesus how to do everything in the kingdom of God...that’s why it’s important for me to understand that Jesus is, in fact, the smartest man in my field. HE is the smartest man in your field. It doesn’t matter what you’re doing. If you are running a bank or a mercantile company or a manufacturing plant or a government office or whatever it is. He is the smartest man on the job.”

- Dallas Willard

“In short, fidelity to the highest practices of vocation before God is consecrated and itself transformational in its effects”

- James Davidson Hunter

“Paul makes this important point: ‘For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and in joy in the Holy Spirit’ (Rom. 14:17) Our attitude toward our work, the excellence of our work, and our relationship with our coworkers would dramatically change if we walked in the Spirit at work.”

- Tom Nelson

1. How would you describe the culture in which you work?
2. How has your workplace culture shaped you as a worker?
3. What disappointments have you faced in your workplace? What might God be teaching you through them?