

# The Christian in the workplace

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Strength in Truth Conference June 2022

# Introduction

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- **Mark Seymour** – Minister since July 2018.
- Current position – Chief Operating Officer at Tenterden Schools Trust. Been in this role (previously as a school business manager) since 2011.
- Previous positions: Business Manager in Warren House Veterinary Group from 2001 to 2011.
- Various roles within National Westminster Bank PLC from 1980 to 2001 culminating in management positions.

# Areas to cover

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1. Background.
2. General code of conduct and responsibility.
3. Prayer and guidance in the workplace.
4. Warnings from work situations and being kept.
5. Challenging situations for the Christian.
6. Letting our light shine before others.
7. Summary.

# Background

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- These are general guidelines from my own experience.
- People will have different views on the various aspects.
- The workplace covers a diverse range of places and situations from office, factory, hospital, school, working from home, self-employed, business owner and many more.
- Many of these points will apply to university and college life too.
- Some people work on their own and others as part of a close knit team. All of these things will have an impact on the role of a Christian.
- By “Christian” we would say one who desires to be a follower of Christ.

# General code of conduct and responsibility.

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- In the workplace our **service** is first to God and second to our employer.
- Our **responsibility** is first to God, second to our employer and also to the law of the land e.g. Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1974.
- We must pray to be given a **diligent** spirit: Proverbs 22 v 29 – “Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings”.
- Ecclesiastes 9 v 10. “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might”.
- Proverbs 12 v 24 – “The hand of the diligent shall bear rule”.

# General code of conduct and responsibility (2)

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- The commandments again – Leviticus 19 v 11 – 16.
- The new commandment – John 13 v 34 “ a new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you.”
- Our dealings with others – Romans 12 v 10 – 18. “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.” “Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord”. “Continuing instant in prayer”. “Given to hospitality”. “Provide things honest in the sight of all men”. “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men”.
- Colossians 3 v 12 and 13 – “kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering”. “ Forgiving one another ...”.

# General code of conduct and responsibility (3)

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- A golden rule – Matthew 7 v 12 “therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them”.
- 1 Peter 3 v 8 – “be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous. Not rendering evil for evil”.
- High standards in dealing with our fellow men and women in daily life whether it be in the workplace or generally as neighbours etc.
- As Christians, the world around us is watching us closely.

# Prayer and guidance in the workplace

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- Prayer in time of opposition.
- Prayer for guidance.
- Prayer for help even in the smallest matter.
- Prayer for the future way and openings of the Lord.
- Prayer in trouble at work.
- Examples across the years... “My times are in thy hand” “Promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west... But God is the judge..he putteth down one and setteth up another”. “Come out from among them and be ye seperate...”. “Fear thou not for I am with thee”, “The gold and the silver are mine”, “This is the way, walk ye in it”. And others.
- Watching the Lord’s hand working matters out. Prayer with watchfulness.



# Warnings and being kept

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- The voice of God in deaths of colleagues with whom I worked (all at a young age).
- Being kept when on residential training courses and at all times.
- Entertainment, sport, parties etc.
- Keeping a consistent walk.
- The lure of alcohol, drugs etc.

# Challenging situations for the Christian

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- The sabbath day. “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy”. Exodus 20 v 8. Various examples to give.
- LGBTQ+ issues and examples.
- Harassment and bullying.
- Other issues.

# Letting our light shine

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- Different people feel they can share things in a different way. But to remember “a quiet example”.
- Not to be left to be Pharisaical in our approach.
- Small ways – our speech, our words, our style of dealing with others.
- Taking opportunities when they come . Some examples from my experience.
- CV – attending a Baptist chapel/church in the section on interests and activities.
- Acknowledging colleagues in other denominations carefully.

# Summary

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- Living by the word of God.
- Praying and seeking the Lord's help.
- Desiring a right level of success as given of God. "Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not".
- Prayers for others with whom we work.
- Remembering that all mens hearts are in Gods hands – Proverbs 21 v 1.
- Really, living a life as a Christian is the same in the workplace as it is anywhere else.