

8 The world of work - Working with God

This topic covers some typical situations which may arise in many jobs. Although there are rights and wrongs involved, there is a significant grey area in each case, so there is no 'correct' answer. You have to, as you would in real life, work out for yourself what you would do, being guided by the teaching of Scripture and praying for help.

When people depend on you

You have a key job in meeting the needs of 'customers'. (A customer in this sense could be a hospital patient, somebody who wants to buy something from the company you work for, or anyone who depends on you). Partly because of the high quality of what you do, the level of work has risen a great deal recently. However, in the last few weeks there have been several problems which have resulted in a large backlog of work, and a lot of overtime is needed if things are not to get out of hand. You are asked to work in the evenings, on Saturdays, and finally on Sundays.



What are the scriptural principles?

What are the alternative courses of action?



Which would you, personally, choose, and why?

How would you explain your decision to your customers?

The office party



You manage a department of 20 men and women. In December you are all invited to the annual office party. These events are regarded by the company as a good way for people to 'let down their hair', and they provide plenty of alcoholic and soft drinks. Previous parties have become a bit wild, and several affairs have begun which caused problems with the marriages of those concerned. The entertainment is heightened by the presence of enthusiastic amateur photographers! Your boss thinks you should be there, partly to show your face, partly to keep things under control. Your staff want you to go because they like you.



What are the scriptural principles?

What are the alternative courses of action?



Which would you, personally, choose, and why?

How would you explain your decision to your staff?

The Sweepstake

It is the week before the Grand National, and time for the annual draw. Everyone pays £1 and is given, at random, the name of a horse. If your horse wins you get £10. Proceeds go towards a local scheme to buy a new kidney machine for the local hospital.



What are the scriptural principles?

What are the alternative courses of action?



Which would you, personally, choose, and why?

How would you explain your decision to your colleagues?

Scripture Union

There are about 200 people in the department in which you work. Each Wednesday lunch time there is a 'Scripture Union' meeting at which a variety of scriptural and practical topics are discussed. These are poorly attended; only 3 or 4 people go (2 Baptists, a Methodist and an occasional C of E), and they are generally regarded as wimps! You are invited.



What are the scriptural principles?



What are the alternative courses of action?

Which would you, personally, choose, and why?

How would you explain your decision to your colleagues?

The Share Option Scheme

Your firm has an employee share option scheme which would enable you to save for 5 years with a Building Society, and at the end of that time have the option to use the money to buy shares at a very favourable price. The company's motivation is

- to make their employees feel more loyalty to the company
- to encourage people to stay with the company longer
- to have shares owned by people who are committed to the company





What are the scriptural principles?



What are the alternative courses of action?

Which would you, personally, choose, and why?

What are the differences and similarities between this and the Sweepstake?

Prayer

Write a short prayer for help, which you could pray in one of these situations

What situations at school challenge your conscience?