

# Excellence in the Workplace

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## Video Notes

### Discussion Questions

1. What are your takeaways from this video? What impacted you the most?

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2. Thinking about the poem Rick read, which aspects can you relate to?

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3. **Rick shared the scripture Colossians 3:17** *“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”* **As Rick mentioned, many confuse excellence with perfection, what might be the motivation and possible roots of striving for perfection?**

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4. **What is it like for the employees of a boss that strives for perfection? Are they operating in a mode of peace and fulfillment that would glorify God?**

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5. **Rick stated there are five ingredients to excellence. Consider each and answer the questions that follow.**

- a. **Seek God’s direction:** Psalm 127:1 *“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”* Are you trying to go about your calling in your own strength? How are you seeking God and allowing Him to lead you?

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- b. **Develop the right attitude:** Phil 4:8 *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”* Do you think on the pure things, what kind of “head trash” (as Rick calls it) hinders you in your walk?

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- c. **Leverage your skills and your calling:** 1 Peter 4:10 *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”* How has God created you with skills and a calling? How are you using them?

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- d. **Implement systems and processes:** If you had to take a medical leave for an extended period, how would your office/business run in your absence? Name systems and processes you have created that those around you could use to do your work or train those supporting you, in your absence.

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- e. **Give God the glory:** 1 Peter 4:11 *“Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”* Are you one who quickly gives God glory, or do you claim that contract “you” won or sales “you” reached?

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## Going Deeper

In 2011, *Psychology Today* posted an article by Mel Schwartz called “The Problem with Perfection”. In this article Schwartz states, “The desire to be perfect traps and burdens many people and imprisons them with unrelenting stress, often creating havoc in their relationships.”

In view of Schwartz’s statement, we might wonder about Matthew 5:48 which tells us *“You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect (ESV)”*. This scripture seems to teach that we are to reach for and strive to attain perfection in everything we do, including our businesses. And as Rick stated, the word “perfect” typically makes us think of being flawless.

The *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, however, states that that the word “*perfect*” in this verse has a much broader meaning than we typically use and understand. In the original Greek, the word can translate as “perfect” is τέλειος (*tel'-i-os*). For that particular verse, The Greek New Testament Interlinear Bible translates τέλειος as “complete”. In addition, Strong's Concordance and Lexicon's top definition for tel'ios is “complete” or “completeness”. So, it is possible that a better translation of this verse might be “*You therefore must be complete in Him, as your heavenly Father is complete.*” As a result, it is important to remember that being complete in God is achieved only through Christ's death on the cross.

1. **How does changing this word in Matt 5:48 from “perfect” to “complete” change the way you might look at living your life? Does it help you to walk in freedom as Rick mentioned?**

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The Bible is the best resource that can be used to guide our personal and business lives for the purpose of glorifying God. In this segment, you will be provided a scripture and then you are to indicate either: (1) *how to* live it out in your business practices, or (2) *how it has* changed your practices by giving an example.

**Daniel 6:3** “*Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.*”

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**Titus 2:7** “*Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity...*”

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**Philippians 1:9-10** “*And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,*”

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**Proverbs 22:29** *“Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.”*

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**Philippians 4:8** *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”*

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