

# Competition in the Workplace

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## Video Notes

## Discussion Questions

1. What stood out the most to you in this video?

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2. Proverbs 24:17 says, *“Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice.”* In business competition happens not only between companies but amongst employees vying for the same position. In football, players compete against one another for the same position. Tommy talked about focusing less on the competition and more on doing your job well. How can this idea help you to view competition in the workplace and have a biblical perspective?

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3. Competition in life is unavoidable, but when it does occur, scripture gives us advice in Philippians 2:4. *“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”* How do you balance competition with a biblical perspective while looking to the interest of those you are competing against? Have you ever prayed for your competition? Why or why not?

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4. What can you do to ensure that competition in the workplace does not lead to envy, jealousy, or unhealthy rivalries among yourselves or other employees? Galatians 5:26, "Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

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5. 1 Corinthians 12:12 says, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." Remembering that at the end of the day, we all serve the same God and we are all to honor Him in all we do. Tommy spoke a lot about doing your best work and letting the chips fall where they may. Is this the key to promoting teamwork and cooperation between companies and among employees while acknowledging individual achievements and recognizing exceptional performance? How does this idea help us with competition?

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6. Philippians 2:3 says, "*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*" Is competition possible without giving into unloving attitudes and practices? What does it take in life to become more humble and less competitive? How will this attitude help advance faith in the workplace?

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## Application

What steps can you take this week to help you have a biblical perspective about competition and handle yourself more like Christ?

## Going Deeper

This section is an extension of the above material and is designed for a deeper study/devotion on your own. Read the scripture below and take time to journal and put this content into practice to help shape your culture at work.

1. Jesus talks about the parable of the hired workers in Matthew 20:1-16. The story is about a landowner who pays a day's wages to all the workers regardless of how many hours they worked. The full-day laborer's plead unfairness; the vineyard owner maintains he is being both generous and just by treating all his workers the same. Not only does Jesus acknowledge the competitive nature of living in this world, but he recommends a streetwise approach to survival that overcomes the destructive potential of competition. Read the story and list some ways you see this issue in our culture today. List what you are going to do to avoid having this attitude.

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2. The Apostle Paul also alludes to competition. He compares living the Christian life to running a race in 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27. The idea is on the disciplines it takes to live our lives with a biblical worldview and manage competition God's way. Read this story and comment on the disciplines you need to work on and what you will specifically do to grow in this area.

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