

"Think Before You Speak"

by Sam Bates

"You must make allowance for each others faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." (Colossians 3:13)

The workplace is a fertile breeding ground for every kind of difficult and potentially damaging situation to take root and have negative impact on our work relationships. As we go about our work we usually depend on others to do their part. With ever increasing pressure to meet impossible deadlines and do "more with less" our patience wears thin when our expectations are not met. As a result, we may lash out at those around us before we ever try to determine why those expectations weren't met. Oftentimes, there is more going on than we know.

As Christians, how we respond in these situations can make or break our witness. Those who don't yet know Christ are carefully watching, and perhaps scrutinizing our actions. If they see us acting like others in the workplace, we compromise our opportunity to be an effective witness when things calm down. We must work even more diligently to be forgiving and understanding when things don't go our way and in doing so reflect the image of Christ to those we work with. If we are kind, forgiving and interested in understanding why things did not go right before we react, we will open the door to further conversations that could lead to deeper relationships in the workplace.

A Work Prayer

Lord, help us to be patient when inevitably things go wrong in our work. As you have forgiven us of so much more, please let us not be short-sighted and petty in dealing with our co-workers. Give us an extra measure of patience and understanding so that the world will truly see a difference in our walk and be drawn to You as the ultimate source of forgiveness. Amen.
