

Biblical Church Officers and Christian Life

1. The Christian Life of Church Officers

1) Harmony between Faith and Life

The Christian life of a church officer is not limited to religious activities within the church. The Bible teaches that faith must be practiced in every area of life. Therefore, the faith of a church officer should display harmony between unseen inner faith (belief, prayer, meditation on the Word) and visible faith in daily living (in the home, workplace, and society).

Jesus said, *“A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit”* (Matt. 7:18). Genuine faith always produces the fruit of life. In other words, faith is proven through daily living.

2) A Whole Life for the Glory of God

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31).

Therefore, church officers must make glorifying God their top priority in all circumstances—whatever they do, wherever they are, and whenever they live. From the simplest routines of life (eating and drinking) to choices and decisions, relationships and words, labor and rest—our whole being is called to become worship (Rom. 12:1; Col. 3:17, 23; 1 Pet. 4:11).

- Even in small habits and decisions, always ask: *“Does this please God?”* (Eph. 5:10)
- Manage time, finances, and health as faithful stewards, displaying God through order and self-control (1 Cor. 4:2).

2. The Christian Life of Church Officers: The Home

In Korea, there is a saying: *“There are houses, but no homes.”*

More than just a physical house where parents and children live together, the family must be a true *home* where hearts and lives are united. The English word *home* has roots in the lives of devout Puritan descendants, who lived with the motto of giving glory to God and advancing the faith of Christ. Pestalozzi once said, *“The peculiar product of Christianity is not the state, but the family. The modern civilized world’s idea of home is especially the result of Christianity.”*

(1) Make the Home an Altar

Abraham and his descendants built altars wherever they went to worship God. Jesus also said, *“My house will be called a house of prayer.”* In the same way, church officers must make their home an altar—establishing a place of worship and prayer. Through the family altar, officers learn to serve God, love their neighbors, and live out their faith. Officers are responsible to keep the fire of the family altar burning—through the Word, prayer, and faith.

Preacher Charles Spurgeon once said: *“Satan, our enemy, tries to extinguish the fire of our family altars. But an unseen hand behind the shadows pours oil upon the altar, making the fire burn more brightly. Therefore, add the wood of Scripture every morning, fan the flames with the breath of prayer, and keep the altar fire burning forever.”*

Family worship is the source of peace in the home and the secret to building a truly happy family. Officers should cultivate a devout atmosphere where the whole family bows before the altar in worship. Worship should be simple, allowing family members to share grace in turn, and the order can be adjusted to the circumstances of the home.

(2) Make the Home a Place of Education

Those who first believe in the family—parents, siblings, relatives—must set the example of faith. The most important model is spiritual education. Living a Christlike life and character is the responsibility of the one who believes first. Yet one family

alone is often not enough. Believing families must pray together and help each other, often through cell groups or small groups. Just as a mother carefully chooses food for her child, the family must feed the soul with proper nourishment. A church officer must build family life centered on church life, recognizing that as an officer, they are also a spiritual leader within the home.

Lydia of Philippi opened her home as a place for evangelism, and her whole household was baptized, forming the foundation of the Philippian church (Acts 16:14–15). The home carries two missions: education and evangelism. Offering one's home as a place for evangelism and mission is a special blessing. In Philippi, it was Lydia's house (Acts 16:40); in Ephesus, Aquila's house (1 Cor. 16:19); in Laodicea, Nympha's house (Col. 4:15).

When the officer's family becomes a Christ-centered place of education and training in faith, the officer can live out a faithful life of service.

(3) Make the Home a Place of Peace

Jesus became the sacrifice of reconciliation, breaking down the wall between God and humanity and making peace. A church officer, chosen as Christ's disciple, must be an instrument of peace within the family. To make the home a place of peace, remember these points:

- ***“Let us build heaven in the hearts of our family!”*** Officers must live with Christ in their hearts, speak words of heaven, act with the values of heaven, and live Spirit-filled lives so as to be stepping-stones of heaven, not stumbling blocks of Satan.
 - ***“Love your family as your own body!”*** True peace in the family can only be built through love. Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves—how much more must we love our family as our own body?
-

3. The Christian Life of Church Officers: The Workplace

The Christian life of church officers is deeply connected to the workplace (job, business, society). Officers are citizens of heaven and also citizens of society. Thus,

they have responsibilities and duties as both. At the heart of both the civic community (society) and the faith community (church) lies a shared sense of social responsibility and public service. If officers neglect this, they become like salt that has lost its taste or a lamp that cannot give light.

God has given work as a means of livelihood. Therefore, for Christians, there is no hierarchy of “high” or “low” jobs. God desires our jobs and workplaces to become channels of His blessing.

1) Work must glorify God

Calvin wrote: *“Man is God’s chosen instrument for His glory, and work is the means.”* Work is not an end in itself but a means to glorify God. Glorifying God is the main calling, and work is the secondary means. Through our work and workplace, we must glorify the Lord.

Paul’s view of work includes:

- Not being a burden to others but working day and night to earn one’s own food (2 Thess. 3:8).
- Working diligently to help others (Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:12).
- Maintaining godliness by being content with food and clothing (1 Tim. 6:6–8).

2) Work must be worthy of faith

Officers may choose any profession, but it must be one that glorifies the Lord. While “everything is permissible,” not everything is beneficial (1 Cor. 6:12). Work should build up the church and the faith. Even if profitable, a job that harms society or makes it impossible to live faithfully as God’s steward should be avoided.

3) Be diligent in work

Officers must be sincere and diligent in their profession. Scripture teaches: *“Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ”* (Eph. 6:5). Jesus also said, *“Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food*

allowance at the proper time?” (Luke 12:42). The Lord blesses the work of those who are sincere.

4) Work is God’s entrusted business

Officers must view their job as God’s entrusted business and work without shame before the Lord. Like Paul, they must live with the spirit of *“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”* (Phil. 1:21). Work is not merely for survival but for Christ and the testimony of the gospel. When we see our labor as service for the Lord, we can work with joy and thanksgiving in all things.

Officers must hold a biblical perspective of work, choosing and managing their occupation in a way that glorifies God. When we *“seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,”* God will provide all that we need (Matt. 6:33).

4. The Christian Life of Church Officers: Words

God is the God of the Word. He gave humans the blessing of speech and communication. But words, though beneficial, also carry great danger (James 3:8; Ps. 57:4; Prov. 21:23). Therefore, Scripture teaches us to guard our tongues. Officers serve the church not only with resources and time but also with the tongue and words. Paul instructs, *“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt”* (Col. 4:6).

1) Five Types of Words to Avoid

- Lies (Eph. 4:25).
- Gossip and slander (Eph. 5:4; Prov. 11:13).
- Words that cause division (Prov. 16:28; Mark 9:50; 1 Thess. 5:13).
- Excessive boasting (Ps. 12:3; Phil. 3:3).
- Complaints and grumbling (Ps. 37:1; Eph. 5:4).

2) Five Types of Words to Speak

- Speak clearly “Yes” or “No” (Matt. 5:37).
 - Speak truth (Eph. 4:25).
 - Speak words that build up (Eph. 4:29).
 - Speak words of comfort (1 Thess. 4:18).
 - Speak words of praise and encouragement (1 Thess. 5:13).
-

5. The Christian Life of Church Officers: Money

Often, when officers lack clarity in financial matters, it harms the church. Disputes and conflicts frequently arise from money issues among officers, becoming sparks of division. The test of material possessions can stumble officers, hinder church growth, and bring disunity.

1) Right Attitude toward Wealth

Two wrong views exist:

- Dualism (Gnosticism), which sees matter as evil and spirit as good.
- Materialism, which prioritizes material existence above the soul and spirit.

Money itself is not evil—the problem lies in how people use it. Material life must not be separated from spiritual life, for managing finances is also part of faith. Scripture warns: *“The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil”* (1 Tim. 6:10). *“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have”* (Heb. 13:5).

Money must be earned rightly and spent rightly. Like the parable of the talents, wealth is entrusted by God to be used faithfully for His kingdom.

2) Be Careful in Financial Matters within the Church

Unclear financial dealings can destroy trust, friendship, and faith. Officers must be especially careful with money-related relationships in the church.

Reflection Questions

1. From today's lesson on the Christian life of officers, what is something new you learned or what impressed your heart the most?
- 2.
3. As a church officer serving in ministry, what is the most encouraging or strengthening word you have heard or spoken?