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Work Ethic in the Modern Age

Millennials are known as the generation of complacency and entitlement. They are not renowned for their hard work, or more specifically, their work ethic. As Millennials exponentially occupy the work force and see many “baby boomers” to retirement, their ability to work ethic is often questioned. The author of “Reviving Work Ethic: A Leader's Guide to Ending Entitlement and Restoring Pride in the Emerging Workforce,” Eric Chester, has been quoted by Jenkins describing those with a good work ethic, as, "positive, enthusiastic people who show up for work on time, who are dressed and prepared properly, who go out of their way to add value and do more than what's required of them, who are honest, who will play by the rules, and who will give cheerful, friendly service regardless of the situation." (Jenkins) Regardless of the current face of labor in the modern age, a good work ethic exists and is certainly important. A good work ethic, to be expected of any individual undertaking however mundane a task, is important. Chester’s quote hold mostly true; above all, people with a good work ethic are honest and consistent.

A good work ethic is important because it denotes a commitment to a contract of some sort. Work ethic is assessed in labor that may not directly benefit or edify the individual undertaking the task. Work ethic is gauged in the drive to fulfill what is a promise. Scripture

dictates that laborers “work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”(Holy Bible, Colossians 3: 23). Although this particular verse referred to slave and their masters, it is very much applicable: work that is not our own should be done like it is for God himself. Good work and work ethic should please an individual because it is to please God. Doing what is expected of one should be the minimum. Being honest with oneself and with God ensures that good work is done.

Chester’s quote is mostly correct, but generally underscores what can be explained as honesty and consistency in individuals with good work ethic. Typically, code of ethics in a workplace can be explained more succinctly as just honesty and consistency. The Association of Computer Machinery has a code and ethics regarding labor, with sections labeled “Be honest and trustworthy” and “Be fair...” , as well as “Acquire and maintain professional competence”(ACM 1.3, 1.4, 2.2). In order to comply with such expectatives, one must be dependable in every area imaginable. While there are merits to going “above and beyond” in a task, it is more commendable to never compromise quality however insurmountable or mundane a task maybe, however high or low that standard of quality may be. What is expected of an individual should never change.

A good work ethic is important in order to move forward as a society, every individual a component, and every component driving the machine. Chester’s quote is mostly accurate, but can be easily explained as honesty and consistency. Those are the most desirable traits that form an individual with a work ethic to envy. .

Works Cited

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