



He Said-She Said: Women in the Workplace?

Note: Due to copyright restrictions, only Kris' answer is listed below. If you would like to see Cliff's answer, go to www.Crosswalk.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: is a biweekly advice column for singles featuring a question from a Crosswalk.com reader with responses from a male and female point of view. If you've got a question about anything related to singleness or living the single life, please submit it to hesaid-shesaid@crosswalk.com †(selected questions will be posted anonymously).

QUESTION: †How do I respond to my superior in the workplace who has suggested, "Go get married" when I try to make meaningful contributions at work? Do men generally despise the contribution of women in the workplace? What does the Bible have to say on the subject?

SHE SAID:

Wow, when I first read this I was thinking, "I thought this type of thinking was dead. Didn't all these men die by now, or at least retire?" Well, based on your letter, they have not. This man obviously has no respect for women. I wonder how he treats his wife, daughters, or daughter-in-laws. To figure him out and try to "change" his attitude may be difficult, but it can be done. Only with the power of the Lord working through you and him. First I would pray every day that he would change, that he would see his comments, attitude, and actions are wrong. That they are condescending, disrespectful and take away from a positive work environment. Second, be encouraged to know God has you there because he wants you to reach others for Christ. Through your attitude, work performance, and quality of work you are to be an example for Christ. Let others wonder how you are able to deal with this man. Then when they ask, you can share with them that Christ is helping you, that God helps you to change and through Christ, your boss can too. Be encouraged to know God has put you there for a reason.

Also, please know there are a many women in the Bible who contributed to the work force. Now, personally I do think if a married couple has the financial ability for the wife or husband to stay home and raise a vs. working, they should do it. I value the time my mom was with me and my brothers growing up. I think it's hard to have both parents working. However, until you are married (or even after), working outside the home is as much your right as a man's. In fact, based on the examples below, it can be very valuable to the kingdom. This is something you would have to pray about when the time comes. So here are a few women that should encourage you as God leads you:

Lydia, Business Owner

†A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

Rachel, Shepherdess

†While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.

Phoebe, Missionary

†I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. †

Priscilla, Missionary and Tent Maker†



Deborah, Ruler

†Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

Queen Vashti, Hostess

†Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes.

Esther, Queen

[Book of†]

Deborah, Nurse

†Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried below Bethel under the oak; it was named Allon-bacuth.

Wife of Noble Character, Land Owner

†She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard.

Midwife

†Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other was named Puah...

Also, Please remember, ††There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Pray and ask God for the strength to be who He wants you to be, where to work and how to serve. We are the light in this dark world, even a world filled with backward thinking men (and sometimes women). God may one day call you to stay home and that is great but if not, all works for His purpose.

SHE is Ö , the President and Director of and . Kris has served in ministry in various capacities for the last 25 years. An accomplished trainer and mentor, Kris has a heart to reach and grow leaders so they will in turn reach and grow others. She is the author of three books: (co-authored with Dick Purnell of); ; and the most recent, with Study Questions (includes a leader's guide and of the same name).

DISCLAIMER: We are not trained psychologists or licensed professionals. We're just average folk who understand what it's like to live the solo life in the twenty-first century. We believe that the Bible is our go-to guide for answers to all of life's questions, and it's where we'll go for guidance when responding to your questions. Also, it's important to note that we write our answers separately (we think they sound eerily similar sometimes, too!). †

GOT A QUESTION? If you've got a question about anything related to singleness or living the single life, please submit it to hesaid-shesaid@crosswalk.com (selected questions will be posted anonymously). While we are unable to answer every inquiry, we do hope that this column will be an encouragement to you. Click here to visit the He Said-She Said .

