

Wearing the Owner's Hat



“Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.”
The Apostle Paul| Galatians 4:7 (NLT)

Mornin’ Ralph; Mornin’ Sam...

Remember the old Looney Tunes cartoon featuring Ralph the wolf and Sam the sheepdog? Each morning they would walk to work together, good friends. As soon as they punched the timeclock, the action was on. Ralph would come up with elaborate schemes to steal sheep; Sam would get there in the nick of time to bash the crafty wolf. This would continue all day long until the shift ending whistle blew. After a hard day's work,

they'd walk home together, Ralph hobbling, friends again. So funny!

Reminds me a bit of days in my prior career in the medical device industry. Countless people would punch the clock, then put their heads down to do the work of an employee. I started my career just like this, but over time, I learned to wear the "Owner's Hat."

The company was owned by a family (call them the "A's"). As I came to know them better, I found myself in times of decision or in the midst of employee bickering, asking, "What would the A's perspective be?" In a sense, I would promote myself by putting on the Owner's Hat, dramatically changing people's attitudes and the decisions we made. There was great power in that hat!

The Lord has made you an heir, but what hat do you wear?

Here's a simple illustration I use for myself to contrast the difference between hats: While walking into work a man notices some trash on the ground. If he's wearing an Employee's Hat, he continues walking, figuring that the grounds keepers will pick it up later. If wearing an Owner's Hat, he makes the effort to stop and pick up the trash, wanting things looking their best in case a customer comes.

An employee focuses on his job, seeking to do the best for himself and perhaps the team, all good! But an owner has a higher position of responsibility. Having a vested interest in the overall mission of the organization, everything matters. An honorable owner even sacrifices himself for the good of the organization.

"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ." The Apostle Paul| Colossians 3:23-24

(NLT)

The Apostle Paul wore an Owner's Hat, clearly promoting that we are to work, not as employees punching in for a shift, but as heirs who are one in purpose with God's work. Everything that matters to God, should matter to us since we too, are owners.

The Owner's Sacrifice

Of course, we do have specific duties in God's organization, "The Body," but there is more to it than that. Just as each organ in your body has a specific function, each also has the common mission of striving for the life of the whole. Think of how certain parts of your body will sacrifice themselves so the core can live. (Imagine losing a toe or a foot to frostbite.) Wearing the Owner's Hat adds the owner's mission and its associated sacrifice to each of our specific duties.

"This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." Jesus Christ| John 15:12-13

Sacrifice and love are synonymous in the world of an honorable owner. Jesus wore the ultimate Owner's Hat, sacrificing everything for the life of the whole. Through this act of perfect love, he makes us heirs so we too can wear the Owner's Hat. He commands us to follow his example... a tall order!

As you go out to do your specific function for the body, your Life Mission, consider what hat you are wearing. Have you fully committed to the Lord's mission, accepting the responsibility that comes with wearing the Owner's Hat? I remember hearing someone say, "if you are arrested for being a Christian, will there be enough evidence to convict you?" There

will be no question about your verdict if you are...

Wearing the Owner's Hat

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

I sacrifice because I wear the Owner's Hat

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him."

The Apostle Paul | Romans 12:1 (NLT)



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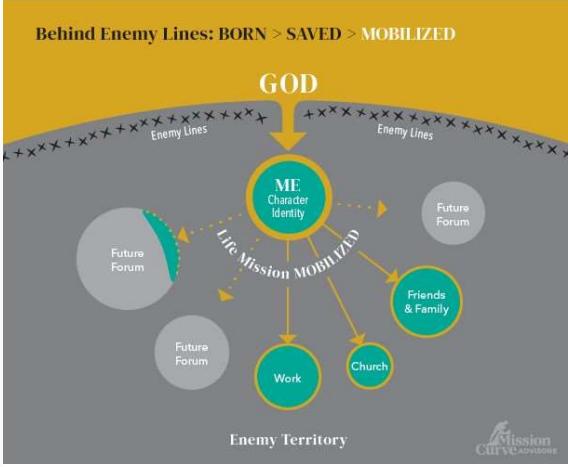
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