

Labeled 'Failure' by Jeanetta Chrystie

“Also we have obtained an inheritance...who works all things after the counsel of His will...”
– Ephesians 1:11 (NASB)

Whether you've left a job, or your job 'left' you; it's easy to begin feeling like a failure in the eyes of others. While a few people will tell everyone who'll listen how badly they were treated by a former employer, many people will suffer in silence. It's too embarrassing to admit to friends, and even family members, that you've lost your job.

Here's the tale of two men. I know of one man who went three months before telling his wife that he'd lost his job. She'd been ill, so he'd pretended that he was taking long-overdue vacation days to help care for her. Another husband continued hoping for months that his former employer would rehire him; so strong was his hope, that he deferred updating his resume and beginning a search for a new job for more than a year. One husband thought he was protecting his spouse from additional worry, the other man was mired in denial.

What did they have in common? Both had worked for their respective employers for 12-19 years. Both had friends at their former jobs who claimed to want them back, they were indispensable. Yet, neither was rehired; one eventually moved on, the other is still stuck.

People may not always appreciate us, our abilities, or our commitment to an organization. Misunderstandings happen. Wrongful termination happens. Corporate 'belt-tightening' happens. Then we feel like 'failures' in our own and others' eyes.

Yet, God sees us as 'works in progress' – not failures. God says we're so valuable he sent His Son to pay the redemption price for our eternal lives. So when a devil speaks bad things in your ear about yourself, attempting to drag you down into a pit of despair or self-pity, tell him "Thanks!" "Thanks for reminding me that my true value is in Christ!" and raise your head, calling to God to take control of your circumstances. Brush that 'failure' label off your chest and call on God to be your guide, vindicator, and job agent.

Prayer: Dear Lord our Judge. Console us with your loving spirit, soothe our wounds with your balm, and teach us our true value in your economy. Grant us the self-discipline and perseverance required to undertake a successful job search, and guide us as we accept the next job you have for us. Thank you for guiding our job search, opening doors, and blessing our lives as we follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen.