

Ten Commandments for Working in a Hostile Environment

1. Know that you are anointed for the job or position you now hold.

- God uses ordinary circumstances as a training ground to perfect our character.
1 John 2:27- "And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you, but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him," (NASB).

2. Don't expect to be appreciated.

- God values humility and servanthood, not pride and entitlement.
Psalms 128:4- Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.
Ruth 2:12- The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!"

3. Embrace opportunities for change.

- We may reach the stage of maturity when we are no longer surprised by change.
Joshua 1:9- Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

4. Do the job well while remembering the vision.

- The secret to performing your duties well where you are is to maintain a vision of where you are headed.
Habakkuk 2:2 Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it".

5. Don't let the environment get inside of you.

- To counter bad attitudes, behaviors, and gossip, maintain a regular diet of prayer, Bible Study, and praise.
*Ezekiel 36:26-27- ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.^[a]
²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.*

6. Increase your capacity to work with difficult personalities.

- Too often we only try to fit in and connect with others similar to us.
1 John 4:7-21- Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love,

not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

7. Where you are is NOT where you are going.

- Be peaceful while progressive.

Matthew 25:21- 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

8. Achieve optimal results with minimal confusion.

- We spend too much time trying to compensate for our weaknesses rather than capitalizing on our strengths.

Hebrew 13:5- Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ^g "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

9. Do not pledge allegiance to cliques and groups.

- The enemy tempts us with the security of the group and the approval of others.

Romans 12:16- Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

1 Cor. 1:10- I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

10. Keep your song near you.

- Spend time in God's presence. Study His Word, offer up prayer, and look deep inside yourself to call up your song-praise and worship Him.

Romans 10:8- "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim:

Deu. 30:14- No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.