

Doing Work You Love: Godly Wisdom for Career Choices

Is work just something we have to do to get to the weekend, or can it be a true expression of what God has called us to do? Get a road map for how God has uniquely created you to work with joy and for His pleasure.

Quiz: checkup on job satisfaction

Illus: my story

Why talk about work?

Cf. Ps 90:10-12

in an average 70-80 year life span, that is about 25,568 days of life

1/3 of life sleeping

1/3 of life working, therefore good to give consideration to work,

take 48 days to discern calling w.r.t. work

Why work?

1. created

Gen. 3:17-19 – mistaken focus, work is cursed, but still has far more intrinsic value

Gen. 1:26-28, 2:5 – created to work: multiple, rule, tend the land

2. commanded

2 Thes. 3:10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

1 Thes. 4:11-12 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

3. called

Ps. 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Ecc. 5:19 Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God.

Col. 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

distinguishing definitions::

vocation = calling, ultimate contribution

career = profession, area, track

job = daily income producer

What kind of work can you do?

"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." - Confucius

Illus: Ask your parents or parent's generation if they love their work; how Jesus found work?

How Paul found work? (why are we so concerned with finding work we can love?)

50-80% job dissatisfaction, according to different surveys
survival < success < significance

We have many opportunities in today's changing job market & economy:

50% of jobs in the next 6 years are not yet created.

In a 45 year work span, the average person can expect 14 to 16 different jobs.

By age 30, most people can do 150 to 200 different things.

Dan Miller says: job security = know what you do well (area of competence)

Why not to work: 1. to make money, 2. to get an identity (or status).

What kind of work you should do? What work can you love?

Dennis Bakke (Joy At Work): doesn't matter if we know ourselves too much

He's observed 2 natural motivation to work

1. purpose: something that's meaningful, along the way meet my own needs

2. be human beings at work -- to think, reason, make decision, hold ourselves responsible

-- everyone gets a chance to make that last shot of the game

All work has value before God, b/c of what Jesus did as a carpenter and footwasher. Work brings order out of chaos, work displays creator's creativity, work helps bring Kingdom values.

From a Dorothy Sayre's essay, biblical doctrine of work is: "Work is the gracious expression of creative energy in the service of others."

Keller: God calls you to do work that you're equipped to do: look on the inside; fits you & benefits others (leads to peace, joy, and justice in the world.).

To quote Tim Keller, he says: vocation = abilities + affinities + opportunity

(what you're great at, what you feel & enjoy, what doors are open)

Illus: American Idol's untalented

To quote Tom Patterson's Life Planning: job fit = job + talents + thinking pattern

Road map for career choice:

1. skills/ abilities/ gifts/ strengths

2. personality traits/ preferences/ work style

3. values/ dreams/ passions