



@Work - Part 1

Sermon Discussion Notes

Opening Thought

Each of us spends 50 - 60 % of our waking hours at work. Some research indicates that there is a great amount of discontent at work. Upwards of 80 % of people indicate that they are frustrated at work. When we add those two factors together - our time is spent at work and that we are frustrated on our jobs - it reveals a painted picture of a very unhappy life. Correcting our view of work will recover much of the joy and pleasure God designed for us to have in this life.

Icebreaker

Have everyone in your Community Group share what their very first job was and what they did on that job.

Opening Scripture

Ecclesiastes 3:22

*22 So I saw that there is nothing better for a man than **to enjoy his work**, because that is his lot. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him? NIV*

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Danny shared how little children want to help their parents work before they are old enough to really participate in certain tasks. Why do you think adults lose the adventure, excitement and passion for working?
2. According to the verses below who was the first worker mentioned in scripture? Also see Psalm 102:25-27, Hebrews 1:10, Hebrews 4:3-5)

Genesis 2:2-3

*2 By the seventh day God had finished **the work** he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all **his work**. 3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from **all the work** of creating that he had done. NIV*

3. God is a working God; A God who is active and productive and fruitful. If that is the case and we are made in his image is it reasonable that we would share his virtues of being creative? Discuss work as being an extension of our creative nature.

Genesis 1:26-27

*26 Then God said, "Let us make man in **our image**, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created man in his **own image**, in the **image of God** he created him; male and female he created them. NIV*

4. Some people take the scripture below to indicate that work is part of the curse from the fall of man when sin came into the world. Why is this not true?

Genesis 3:17-19

17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." NIV

5. Part of purpose of work is to turn negative environments into positive ones. How is this seen in the scripture below? What did God do in the rest of Genesis 1?

Genesis 1:1-2

*1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was **formless and empty**, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. NIV*

6. The first job assignment was given to Adam by God. What was it? What does it tell us about a primary purpose of work?

Genesis 2:15

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. NIV

7. In every job who are we ultimately working for? What is the significance of understanding this principle? Also see Colossians 3:17.

Colossians 3:23-24

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. NIV

Conclusion

Over time our view of work has been corrupted. Through that corruption we have lost the joy of expressing our creative nature through work.