

## Introduction: Questions to Ponder

- How can we live above the daily grind?
- Why are the great majority of people dissatisfied with their jobs?
- How can the place where we spend the majority of our waking hours be transformed from drudgery to delight?

**The Answer:** We must totally rethink our view and attitudes about work.

*Work is to be seen not as a necessary drudgery to be undergone for the purpose of making money, but as a way of life in which the nature of man should find his proper exercise and delight and so fulfill itself to the glory of God. It should, in fact, be thought of as a creative activity undertaken for the love of work itself; and man made in God's image should make things as God makes them, for the sake of doing well, a thing worth well doing.*

Dorothy Sayers

## A Theology of Work

1. God is a worker. (Gen 2:2-3)
2. God created people to be His co-workers. (Gen 2:15)
3. Work after the Fall. (Gen 3:17-19)
  - Cursed/ Frustrated
  - Two Extreme Positions
4. Work under the Lordship of Christ.

Work is a \_\_\_\_\_ not a job. (Eph 4:1; 6:5-9)

All work is \_\_\_\_\_. (Col 3:23-24)

Our work is to flow from God's unique design and purpose for our lives. (Eph 2:10)

The world says, "You are what you do. Work is your identity!"

God says, "Do what you are. Work is a stewardship!"

## Implications of a Biblical View of Work

1. Our work is to be done with excellence. (Col 3)
2. Our work is an extension of our worship and obedience. (Eph 6:5-8)
3. Our work is our primary ministry opportunity to display God's work in us, reveal His character, model His compassion and concern for our fellow workers, and share His offer of salvation.
4. Work is by nature intrinsically good (Eph 4:28) and has dignity (Christ worked as a carpenter – Mark 6:3) in and of itself.
5. Work is God's primary means to financially provide for His children (Matt 6; 1 Tim 5:8), His church (Gal 6:6), and for those in need. (Eph 4:28)
6. Work is not the means to significance, but to service and fulfilling our calling. (Eph 6:5-8)
7. Work has lasting and eternal significance as we will work in the Millennium (Isa 65:21-25) and receive eternal rewards for how we work. (Eph 6:5-9)

## Discussion/ Application Questions

1. How satisfied/dissatisfied are you with your job? Why?
2. What new insights did you gain about work?
3. Why is the work of a lay person committed to Christ just as important as a pastor's in the church?
4. What attitude and/or changes need to happen in you for your work to be an extension of worship, ministry, and loving others?

### **Additional Resources:**

1. *Don't Waste Your Life* by John Piper (book)
2. *Good to Great in God's Eyes* by Chip Ingram (book, CD series)