

September 4, 2022

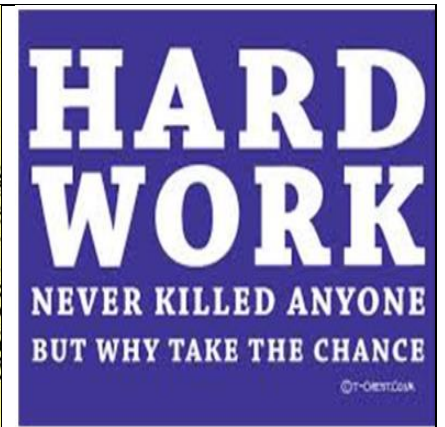
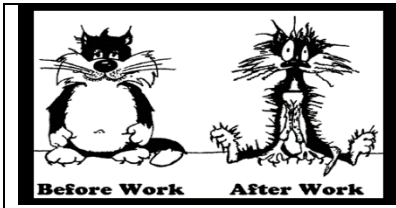
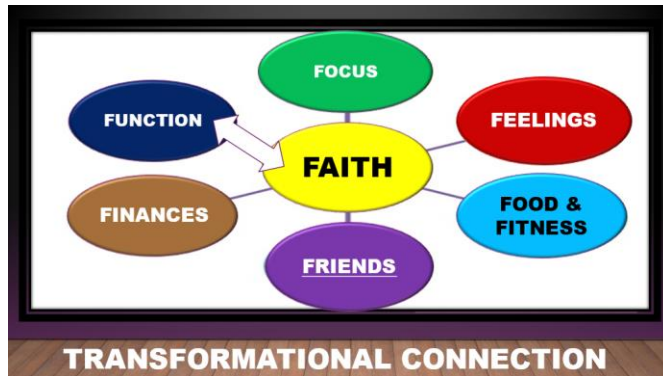
Transformational Discipleship Pt 7: FUNCTION:
Being A Disciple in Your Work/Career

Sermon Central Video Labor Day – The Purpose of Our Labor
https://www.sermoncentral.com/church-media-preaching-sermons/sermon-video-illustrations/labor-day-the-purpose-of-our-labor-16517-detail?utm_source=Maropost&utm_medium=email&utm_content=media1&utm_campaign=scpreachingideasAugust%2030th,%202022&utm_id=742418023&mpweb=256-9797316-742418023

Transformational Discipleship Pt 7: FUNCTION:
Being A Disciple in Your Work/Career

Music intro to slide ...Hi Ho, Hi Ho (It's Off To Work We Go)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8oRfo2tO24>



“Over many centuries, we have been trained to believe that the two worlds of spiritual and secular are to be separated. Now it is easier to understand why the separation of church and state is such a debated issue.

Consider these facts about Jesus and Paul's ministries:

- Of 132 public appearances in the New Testament, 122 were in the marketplace.
- Of 52 parables Jesus told, 45 had a workplace context.
- Of 40 miracles recorded in the book of Acts, 39 were in the marketplace.
- 54 percent of Jesus' reported teaching ministry arose out of issues posed by others in the scope of daily life experience.

Work, in its different forms, is mentioned more than 800 times in the Bible—more times than all the words used to express worship, music, praise and singing combined.

Jesus and Paul saw their work as ministry. Paul wrote: *In Col. 3:23-24, ^{NKJV} “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ”*). (reprinted from <https://www.charismanews.com/marketplace/39641-your-work-is-your-ministry>)

Over the years, we have made a decision to separate work into the 'sacred' or the 'secular'. Even though there are those who are called to a 'full-time church-related vocation', we must not make a quality of ministry distinction with jobs that are not church related. All work is to be a ministry, wherever you work, IS YOUR MINISTRY FIELD.

“In chapter eight of *Don't Waste Your Life*, titled *Making Much of Christ from 8 to 5*, John Piper explains why secular work is designed to be God-like work.” So if you go all the way back, before the origin of sin, there are no negative connotations about secular work. According to [Genesis 2:2](#), God himself rested from his work of creation, implying that work is a good, God-like thing. And the capstone of that divine work was man, a creature in God's own image designed to carry on the work of ruling and shaping and designing creation. Therefore, at the heart of the meaning of work is creativity. If you are God, your work is to create out of nothing. If you are not God, but like God — that is, if you are human — your work is to take what God has made and shape it and use it to make him look great”.
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/christian-your-job-is-a-ministry-job>

Some Foundational Bible Truths

❖ WORK IS A PART OF GOD'S NATURE

Genesis 2:2... ¹*So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.* ²*By the seventh day God completed His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done.* ³*God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it He rested from His work of creation.*

Ephesians 2:10... *For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.*

John 5:17... *But Jesus responded to them, “My Father is still working, and I am working also.”*

❖ **WORK IS A PART OF GOD'S PLAN & PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES**

Genesis 2:15...*The LORD God took the man and placed him in the Garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.*

❖ **GOD IS OUR SOURCE AND SUPPLIER FOR OUR ABILITY TO WORK**

Deuteronomy 8:17, 18...¹⁷ *You may say to yourself, 'My power and my own ability have gained this wealth for me,'* ¹⁸ *but remember that the LORD your God gives you the ability to gain wealth.*

Everything we have is a gift from God, including your ability to make and gain wealth through your work. Therefore we should seek to honor God in our work and our wealth-building.

Practical Bible Truths

Key Bible PASSAGE

Colossians 3:22-24...²² *Don't work only while being watched, in order to please men, but work wholeheartedly, with reverent fear for the Lord.*
²³ *Whatever you do, work at it enthusiastically (with all your heart), as something done for the Lord and not for men,* ²⁴ *knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.*

❖ **WORK IS NOT OPTIONAL**

Colossians 3:22-24...²² *Don't work only while being watched, in order to please men, but work wholeheartedly, with reverent fear for the Lord.*
²³ *Whatever you do, work...*

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13...⁶ *Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother who walks irresponsibly and not according to the tradition received from us.* ⁷ *For you yourselves know how you must imitate us: We were not irresponsible among you;* ⁸ *we did not eat anyone's food free of charge; instead, we labored and struggled, working night and day, so that we would not be a burden to any of you.* ⁹ *It is not that we don't have the right to support, but we did it to make ourselves an example to you so that you would imitate us.* ¹⁰ *In fact, when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: "If anyone isn't willing to work, he should not eat."* ¹¹ *For we hear that there are some among you who walk irresponsibly, not working at all, but interfering with the work of others.* ¹² *Now we command and exhort such people by the Lord Jesus Christ that quietly working, they may eat their own food.* ¹³ *Brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.*

Practical Truth – We should be working!

❖ WE SHOULD BE ENTHUSIASTIC & DILIGENT IN OUR WORK

Colossians 3:22-24... ²²*Don't work only while being watched, in order to please men, but work wholeheartedly, with reverent fear for the Lord.*

²³ *Whatever you do, work at it enthusiastically (with all your heart),*

2 Timothy 2:15... *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.*

Romans 12:11...*Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. (TLB)*

SLIDE: *Diligence Implies Giving Our Best, Growing in Our Ability and Seeking Godly Counsel & Advice*

➤ **WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHO WE ARE REALLY WORKING FOR & WHY WE WILL SEEK TO EMULATE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS**

Colossians 3:22-24... ²²*Don't work only while being watched, in order to please men, but work wholeheartedly, with reverent fear for the Lord.*

²³ *Whatever you do, work at it enthusiastically (with all your heart), as something done for the Lord and not for men,*

2 Corinthians 5:20... *We are Christ's ambassadors.*

Ephesians 4:2, 3... *Walk worthy of the calling you have received, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, accepting one another in love, ³diligently keeping the unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds us.*

Proverbs 16:3...*Commit your work to the Lord, and then it will succeed.*

TAKE away:

God is concerned with your character not just your career

We should be working enthusiastically & diligently to bring honor and glory to the Lord!

References

...Warren, Rick. Transformed: How God Changes Us. Part 7- Vocational Health. Small Group Study. Saddleback Resources