

Work in Christ

Colossians 3:22-4:1 (ESV)

We work for God's glory and our joy!

Theology of Work

1. Work is good! Genesis 2:15

- a. God created Adam and Eve to work in the Garden
- b. work is not a result of the Fall rather than a part of the created order
- c. This work was part of Adam and Eve's mandate to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it" (Gen 1:28).
- d. Work is not optional; work need not be something we get paid for to be considered valuable or legitimate; not working is sinful (laziness, sluggardliness)

2. Work is hard! Gen 3:17-19

- a. Adam and Eve's rebellion resulted in work becoming difficult
- b. God curses the ground as a result of Adam and Eve's rebellion.

3. Work is for God's glory! 1 Corinthians 10:31

- a. All work is to be done for the glory of God
- b. Reflecting God's image is central to a biblical view of work
- c. Westminster Catechism – the chief end of man is to glorify God

Colossian Principles – What work in union with Christ looks like:

1. Our work should be sincere (v. 22, 23)

[22] *Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.*

- Workers working hard and diligently when being watched
- Running lengths in football
- This indicated a lack of character and a lesser motivation
- You do not work hard because it is the right thing to do; you work hard to look good in man's eyes
- Sincerity = singleness = focused and consistent

[23] *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,*

- Heartily = whole-souled, with everything you've got, all of you being

2. Our work should be spiritual (v. 22-24)

[22] *Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. [23]*

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

- Work/employment is also called a vocation – root word means "to call"

- We have this idea that church and/or ministry related work is a “calling” and the rest is just secular
- Full time ministry is does not transcend other types of work
- For a Christian, work is a calling

3. Our work will be rewarded (v. 24-25)

[23] *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, **[24]** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. **[25]** For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.*

- The Lord will reward us for good or for evil
- We ought to have that in mind when we work; there will be a reckoning for the lives we have lived
- We will be judged

Work It Out

a. Work with a purpose.

Colossians 3:17 (ESV) And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,

b. Work with a determined effort.

MLK: “If it falls to your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, sweep streets like Beethoven composed music ... Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the host of heaven and earth will have to pause and say: Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well.”

John Flavell: And yet do not be so intent upon your particular callings [jobs] as to make them interfere with your general calling [Christian].

c. Work with the end in view.

Matthew 16:24-27 (ESV) [24] Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. [25] For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. [26] For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? [27] For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.