

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. Many Christians believe that work was the result of the curse in Genesis 3 and is now a necessary evil to earn the income we need. However, the Bible teaches that God created man to work, giving him the responsibility to take care of the garden in the perfect world of Eden, before the fall.
 - a. Have you ever thought of work as a result of the curse, and/or a necessary evil? Why do you think this is such a common belief, both in the church and in the culture?
 - b. God gave man the responsibility of work in Eden, before the fall, teaching us that work is part of God's original and perfect desire for us and our blessing. Do you really believe this as it applies to you and your work? What would it look like if you did?
 - c. Genesis 3 teaches us that work itself was not cursed, but the environment of work has been cursed. Practically what does this mean for you and your work?
2. Jesus Christ began his public ministry when he was 30 years old, before which time he worked as a carpenter. This means that Jesus spent 15+ years of his adult life working as a carpenter, and only 3 years of his adult life in his public ministry.
 - a. Do you believe that the Father was less pleased with Jesus during the 15 years he worked as a carpenter than during the years of his teaching ministry?
 - b. Is it surprising that God ordained Jesus to spend 5 times as much time working as a carpenter than he spent in his teaching ministry? What lessons do you believe that God wants us to learn from the example of Jesus life?
 - c. What kind of carpenter do you believe Jesus was? How do you think he approached his work?
3. Many people divide life into areas of the "sacred" and the "secular," usually identifying all non-church work as being "secular." However, this "sacred" and "secular" division is totally foreign to the Bible, and God considers all work to be an equally sacred service to him.
 - a. Is this a hard concept for you to understand and accept in your life? How difficult is it to believe and accept that what you do is as sacred before God as being a pastor?
 - b. How would fully understanding and embracing the sacred nature of your job impact the way you see and/or approach your job?
4. What difference should a Christian's faith make in his or her work?
5. God has called each Christian to be a missionary in the setting God has placed them, and every person has a unique opportunity to serve the Lord through their job. What opportunities do you have through your job to uniquely serve and honor the Lord? What specific actions can you do at your school or workplace this week to take advantage of these opportunities to serve the Lord?
6. Paul teaches us that regardless of our job, we are to do our job with all our heart, as if we were serving the Lord.
 - a. To what degree can you say that you regularly do your job with all your heart?
 - b. What would it look like if tomorrow you did your job with all your heart, as unto the Lord?