



Core Seminars – Engaging the World
Christians in the Workplace
Week 5

Course outline

The Story of Work

Week 1: A Biblical Theology of Work

Week 2: The Problem with Work

Our Work as the Redeemed

Week 3: A New Boss: How Jesus' Work Changes Our Work

Week 4: A New Goal: Success is Faithfulness

How We Work

Week 5: Motivation: Faithfulness Changes Why We Work

Week 6: Relationships: Imaging Christ in the Workplace

Week 7: Balance: Christians Are *Not* Balanced People

Week 8: Gender: Being Who You Are in the Workplace

Week 9: Ethics: Case Studies for the Modern Workplace

Week 10: Finding a Job: Putting First Things First

Week 11: Evangelism: Sharing Christ With Your Colleagues

Week 12: Work at different stages of life

Week 13: Panel Q&A

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Suggested reading

- *The Gospel at Work* (Traeger, Gilbert)
- *God at Work* (Veith)
- *The Call* (Guinness)

Motivation:
Faithfulness Changes Why We Work

Introduction

Can people tell you're a Christian by how you work?
Why you work?

How has the concept of "working to be counted as faithful" affected your work?

Love of God, Love of Neighbor

Our assignment from Jesus is to be faithful: to obey him in the workplace as to show off the excellence of his worth.

What does faithful obedience look like? Matt. 22:37-38

Motive #1: Work for Enjoyment

God created work (in part) for our enjoyment

- 1 Timothy 6:17
- Ecclesiastes 5:18-19

Motive #2: Work to Reflect God's Character

Experiencing God's delight in being God by following in his footsteps.

Vindicating the goodness of God's attributes.

We reflect God's character by...

- *Bringing order out of chaos.*

- *Exercising authority well*

“The Spirit of the Lord speaks by me;
his word is on my tongue.
The God of Israel has spoken;
the Rock of Israel has said to me:
When one rules justly over men,
ruling in the fear of God,
he dawns on them like the morning light,
like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning,
like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.
2 Samuel 23:2-4

Using authority for the good of others is a counter-attack against Satan's lie that *no* authority (even God's) can be trusted.

- *Being Creative*

- *Providing*

God has ordered this world such that he normally provides through our work.

Our provision glorifies God:

- As we obey his command to love our neighbor.
- As we take satisfaction in providing for others like he does.

Motive #3: Work to Adorn the Gospel

Titus 2:10: “So that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.”

Motive #4: Work for Money

Money: the forgotten hero of the workplace

One of God's main purposes for employment is money

- 2 Thess. 3:10 (no work, no eat)
- Prov. 12:11

“Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need” – Eph. 4:28

Rightly working for money can protect us from idolatry and idleness.

Conclusion

The necessity of faith.