

Week 2- Working in a Fallen World

Introduction

Reflection:

- Reflect on your week. What things are you thankful for? What are the things that were difficult?

Discussion:

- What do all people want from work?
- What do Christians want from work?
- Question: Do we get what we want from work? Either Christians or non-Christians Why not?

Review

- Theme: Working to The Glory of God:

Col 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- Redemptive History: Creation (Work Created GOOD), **Fall**, Redemption/Recreation:
- God cares about your work outside the church just as much as your work in the church
- Worship as Preparation for Work

Challenges at Work

The Origin of Challenging Work: The Fall

- Gen 3: 1-28
 - The Ground is _____ (17)
 - Instead of fruit, we get _____ (18)
 - We have to work _____ than we should (19)

Work feels fruitless

- How do we experience Gen 2:18?
 - Every vocation impacted
 - We are never _____ as we envision
- Ecclesiastes 2:18-22

Work becomes Pointless

- Ecclesiastes 2:9-11
- **From 33 The Series:** What happens when what we experience in work is not what we expect
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Work Becomes Selfish

- Gen 11:1-9
 - The desire to make a name for ourselves (verse 4)
 - We will do anything to avoid suffering (verse 4)
- Never enough

"Now what I want you to get clear is that Pride is essentially competitive—is competitive by its very nature. . . . Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking but they are not. They are proud

of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others." (C.S. Lewis Mere Christianity, 116 as referenced in Every Good Endeavor p.117).

- Isaiah 58:3-7

Work as an Idol

- Idol defined: Ex 20:3-5

"We have an alternate or counterfeit god if we take anything in creation and begin to "bow down" to it—that is, to love, serve, and derive meaning from it more than from the true God. Because we can set up idols in our hearts (Ezekiel 14:3–7), we recognize that "making an image" of something is not necessarily a physical process but is certainly a spiritual and psychological one. It means imagining and trusting anything to deliver the control, security, significance, satisfaction, and beauty that only the real God can give. It means turning a good thing into an ultimate thing.

- Activity: Identify Different work idols.
 - Gen 3:6
 - 1 Cor 6:10
 - Matt 23:5
 - Gal 1:10
 - 2 Thess 3:10-11
- God rested on the seventh day, but we often fail to rest.

Christ-Like Responses to Challenges at Work

- Pray:
 - Gal 6:9-10, Rom 8:16-17, James 1:12-13
- Care about one another

- Rom 12:15.
- Encourage one another
 - Hebrews 10:19-25

Dealing with Conflict in a Christ-like Way

- Principles for dealing with conflict
 - 1 Cor 6:5-8
 - Phil 4:25-32
- Dealing with Injustice in a Christ Like Way
 - Define injustice: Its different than conflict. Injustice is when there is serious or criminal wrongdoing or systematic prejudice, not just one situation.
 - Similar concept to dealing with conflict.
 - Rom 13:1-5: If possible, use the God ordained institutions to obtain justice
 - Matthew 18:15-18 Wisdom
- When is it time to move on?
- Activity: Pray for one another (10 minutes)

Closing (10 minutes, 10:20-10:30)

- **Hold on to God's Promises**
 - **Romans 8:18-25**
- **Key Takeaways**