

God and Your Business

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I. Attitude is a choice.

A. Work is not a result of the Fall.

B. If you fear the Lord and walk in His ways, you will find pleasure in work. It begins with attitude. Choosing this is the freedom that we all have.

II. The fear of the Lord is a choice. (Proverbs 1:29)

A. The broad road leads to destruction, and the narrow road leads to life.

B. Fear of the Lord drives out ungodly fears.

C. This results in happiness.

III. Whether or not to walk in God's ways is a choice. (Psalm 119:173)

A. When we walk in God's ways we have help.

B. When we eat the labor of God's hands we will be happy.

IV. God's ways concerning work. (Deuteronomy 5)

A. The commandments.

1. They are expressions of God's character.

2. You do not break them—they break you.

3. They are divine standards.

4. Salvation is by grace through faith, but hard work is important. Faith and hard work are not contradictory. (1 Corinthians 3:10)

B. We are to labor six days according to the commandment.

1. Work is an expenditure of mental or physical energy resulting in a product or a service.

2. With the result of the work there should be pleasure.

C. The example of the wise working woman. (Proverbs 31:10)

1. She does work of every kind.

2. What makes the difference is that she has a profound awareness of God.

D. What qualifies as work: Bible study, prayer, witnessing, redemption, etc.

E. How one should work.

1. The basic business principle according to the book of Proverbs is hard work. (Proverbs 13:4)
2. You have to work hard at the right things. There are fundamentals you have to know and practice to be successful. (Proverbs 24:27)
3. You have to work hard for the right reasons. You become wise by first revering the Lord. If you do not start right, you will not end right. (Proverbs 1:7-9)

F. Work is a partnership with God.

1. God gives a man a garden, but man nurtures it.
2. The Fall brought conflict, but work itself is good.
3. Serving the Lord is an outflow of what happens every day. Pray through the day forward and backwards. (Psalm 92:2)
4. We are to think about the good things that God did and enjoy them. (Philippians 4:8)

G. The seventh day is to be kept holy or different. (Exodus 34:21)

1. The Sabbath was made for man and Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath. (Mark 2:27-28)
2. Reasons for the Seventh Day.
 - a. Health.
 - b. Freedom from being a workaholic and greed.
 - c. Perspective.

H. How to do it.

1. Rest from regular work.
2. Remember you were redeemed, what the Lord has done in Creation, and the good things of the week. (Philippians 4:8)
3. Refresh others and you will be refreshed. (Exodus 23:12)

V. Conclusion. (1 Timothy 6:17-18)

- A. Enjoy the fruit of your labor.
- B. Share the fruit of your labor.
- C. You will be happy, and it will be well with you.

Application questions

1. What misgivings do people generally have about work? What has this message had to say that is different?

2. How is it that attitude can be a choice?

3. Why is rest so important? How does one accomplish this? How will you do this in a meaningful way?
