



The Christian and His Work

The Christian and his work

1. Who ordained work?
2. Is work a good thing?
3. Why ought we to work?
4. Does God care what kind of secular work I do?
5. What should be my manner of work?
6. What are the fruits of following God's will in the work we do?

God ordained work

- God worked and is working
 - Genesis 2:2; John 5:17
- Christ worked diligently on this earth while here
 - John 9:4
- God commanded man in the beginning to work
 - Genesis 1:26-27; 2:15
 - And men did
 - Genesis 4:3, 4, 17, 20, 21, 22

Work is a good thing

- God commands us today to work
 - Ephesians 4:28
- Work is good, for God commanded it
- Idleness, slothfulness, laziness condemned
 - Proverbs 6:6-11
- God blesses us by giving us work and the ability to enjoy its fruits
 - Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

Why work?

What the world says vs. what God says

What the world says:

- As a fulfilment of life – life's goal
 - Ecclesiastes 2:10-11; 6:7
- To obtain wealth for self
 - Luke 12: 15-21
 - Ecclesiastes 5:10-15
- Covetousness
 - Mark 4:19; Luke 8:14
 - Colossians 3:5
 - And thus for many, to pay debts
 - Proverbs 22:7
 - Lives out of balance

Why work?

What the world says vs. what God says

What God says:

- Commanded
 - Ephesians 4:28
- Principle about working and eating
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:10
- Provide for our own
 - 1 Timothy 5:4, 8
- To share with others
 - Ephesians 4:28; Galatians 6:10; James 1:27; Acts 4:32-37
- To avoid idleness and things that often come with it
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12

Does God care what kind of secular work I do?

Yes, He does!

- Honest labor
 - Luke 3:12-13; Luke 19:8-9
 - Ezekiel 22:12-13; Amos 8:5-6
 - 1 Peter 5:2
- Must not be:
 - Shady, questionable
 - Against Christ's teachings
 - Interfere with carrying out our responsibilities to the Lord
- Beware of get-rich-quick schemes
- Ask yourself:
 - Would I want my son or daughter doing this?
 - Would I want to be doing this job when the Lord returns?

God instructs us in our manner of work

- Ephesians 6:5-9
- Colossians 3:22-25, 4:1
- Titus 2:9-10
- Philippians 2:14-15
- See then:
 - Obediently, with respect for authority
 - “be obedient to”; “obey in all things”; “to be well pleasing in all things”; “not answering back”
 - In sincerity, not with eyeservice
 - “not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God”

God instructs us in our manner of work

- See then:
 - Heartily, as to the Lord
 - “do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men”; “knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ”
 - Not a complainer
 - “without murmuring and disputing”
 - Honesty and integrity
 - “not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity”
 - Just and fair
 - “give your servants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven”
 - Kind; neither harsh, nor overbearing, nor intimidating
 - “Giving up threatening”

Following God in the way we work yields bountiful fruit unto God

- Pleasing God
 - Ephesians 6:8; Colossians 3:24
- Adorning the doctrine of God our Savior
 - Titus 2:10
- Shining as lights
 - Philippians 2:14-16; Matthew 5:16
- Leading others to Christ
 - 1 Peter 3:15