

Christian Vocation

Work is ordained by God

Even before the Fall, Adam was told to tend the garden.

God has a plan for your life, and a major part of it is your calling or vocation.

Along with the calling, He gives you the abilities to fulfill it and be effective.

What is the purpose of work?

To use your God-given talents and gifts to serve Him and your fellow man.

Remuneration is the necessary and good result of work, but not the primary purpose.

"Choose that employment or calling in which you may be most serviceable to God. Choose not that in which you may be most rich or honorable in the world; but that in which you may do most good, and best escape sinning." - Richard Baxter

"They profane their lives and callings that employ them to get honor, pleasures, profits, worldly commodities, etc., for thus we live to another end than God hath appointed, and thus we serve ourselves, and consequently neither God nor man." - William Perkins

Work should be fulfilling and emotionally rewarding, even if not 'fun'. Having the right attitude towards our work helps us to be content, and to be able to accept our tasks willingly.

Work is

- one way we serve God
- a way to serve our fellow man
- an opportunity for ministry
- how you have, to be able to give to others
- how you support yourself and family

There is no distinction between 'sacred' and 'secular' employment.

The Bible does not represent 2 classes of Christians, a full-time clergy and a part-time laity. All legitimate forms of work have inherent dignity, and are equally valid fields of ministry if we are faithful in them.

We are all called to 'full-time Christian service' from the moment we get saved. Eph. 4:1 - "... beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."

What are 'legitimate' forms of work? All work is 'Christian' if

- a Christian is doing it
- it glorifies God
- it serves your neighbor in love

This would exclude occupations such as prostitute, gambler, drug dealer, etc. Others are questionable, and may be a matter for prayer and individual conscience. e.g., working for the government, renting videos, or making a product which is often used for sinful purposes.

No work is too low or menial to glorify God. Col.3:22-24

How can we know our calling?

We all share a basic calling, which is to live as Christian disciples in whatever position or vocation we find ourselves.

If you are already in an occupation that meets the test for being a 'legitimate' form of work, don't be in a hurry to change. Make sure you are being faithful in what you have.

If you are looking for your calling in the first place,

1. Pray
2. What are your inner endowments and inclinations? your abilities and talents?
3. Outward circumstances
4. Advice of parents
5. Education and gifts

If you see your vocation as a calling, it will not be something that you enter into or abandon lightly.

Guard against dissatisfaction.

"All you could do in any other place or circumstance, you can do right now where you are. You ask, "What is this?" It is to witness, fast, pray and intercede, minister to the sick and those in need, liberate the oppressed, crucify the self-life, press on to a deeper walk in the Spirit, learn to live in faith, serve your neighbor in love, and find your place in the body of Christ and function in it." - Hobart Freeman

How should we work? Col. 3:22-24

- Cheerfully
- honestly
- with diligence
- as unto the Lord