

# 24. Gospel Driven Life

## Worship While You Work

**Bottom Line:** God designed us to work, and when we work hard with the right perspective, we are worshipping.

**Parallel Passage:** *[22] Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. [23] Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. [25] For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (Colossians 3:22-25 ESV)*

**Summary:** People tend to compartmentalize their lives into different circles and prevent those circles from intersecting. The gospel and our faith as followers of Jesus, however, isn't supposed to be confined to Sunday or during interactions with friends from church. Our faith should permeate and impact every area of our lives, seven days a week, including our work. This means that God is very much concerned with how you work at your job, how you raise your kids, what you say and do with your friends, and so on and so forth.

When it comes to work, there are a few primary ways that we should allow our faith to make an impact. For one, **we respect our employer** (or our employees). By being respectful, we are acknowledging the God-ordained order of authority that we have been placed under or given. When we reject that chain of authority, we shake our fist at God. Second, **we work hard** no matter what our job is. When we work hard, we worship God. God created us to work, and when we pursue our work with excellence, we bring him glory. Third, we make sure that we worship while working, but **we don't worship our work**. Work is an important part of our life, but it must not be our life's pursuit. When we draw all identity and value from our job, we turn our employment into an idol. Fourth, **we bring the gospel with us** as we enter into our workplace. This means that we seek for opportunities to both demonstrate and declare the good news of Jesus Christ with our work and amongst our co-workers.

Simply put, God designed us to work, and when we work hard with the right perspective, we are able to worship while we work.

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) Very few people have a healthy perspective on work. People tend to live to work (and become workaholics) or work for the weekend (just trying to get through to Friday so they can punch the clock and enjoy “life”). Which of these mentalities are you more prone to and why? Give some examples.
  - a) To phrase it another way: Describe your perspective on work?
- 2) What does a fear of God have to do with any of this? (Col. 3:22)
- 3) Do you have a hard time respecting your boss or your employees? Why?
  - a) Why is it important for you to figure out how to respect them? What does this look like for you? Maybe your group has some suggestions (c.f. Col 3 for help).
- 4) Do you struggle with working hard (being lazy, poor time management, easily distracted)?
  - a) Why is it important for you to work hard? What are the obstacles that prevent you from doing this?
- 5) Do you struggle with overwork or being a workaholic? If so, why?
  - a) What is the danger in overworking?
- 6) Do you have a hard time bringing the gospel with you to work? Why?
  - a) Why is it important for you to learn how to bring the gospel with you to work? What are some steps you could take to begin walking in this direction?
- 7) Summary, WOVEN: How can you more successfully weave the thread of the gospel into your work? What do you need to do or pray about? What’s your next step?