

The Work of Our Hands (1 Corinthians 7:17-24)

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I. Average American Works more than 80,000 in their lifetime!

- a. Technology hasn't solved it but exacerbated it.
- b. In 1 Corinthians 7:17-24, Paul gives us a better vision for work than anything our world does. He gives us...

II. New Perspective of work (7:17)

a. Work isn't just something we chose, but something God calls us into.

i. *This Provides Ballast To The Work You Do.*

- 1. If work is something you chose, when it's successful and fruitful, you'll tend to grow arrogant. Yet when it's frustrating and fruitless, you'll grow despondent.
- 2. If it's something the Lord calls you into, then when it's successful and fruitful, you'll tend to be more grateful for the Lord's blessing. And if it's frustrating and fruitless, you'll be able to work faithfully knowing the Lord called you to it.

ii. *It Keeps You Thinking Straight.*

- 1. Work in America is what we do to prove our worth and build an identity.
- 2. The Gospel frees you from the relentless pressure to prove yourself, and you're given an identity in Christ! Secure in His love. Nothing to prove and nothing to lose!

III. New Purpose for Work (7:23) We were bought with a price and our bond servants of the Lord....

a. Our Work is to Honor the Lord.

i. *This gives us a new found dignity to all forms of work* (except work that is exploitive in nature).

b. By Serving the human community in love. Christ's service to us fuels our service to others (Phil. 2:4-11).

i. *This gives us a new found freedom to pursue work that's in line with our gifts, abilities and passions.*

- 1. And it gives parents a framework when talking with their kids about their future.

IV. New Power in Work (7:23) Paul has already said that we're (individually) temples of the Holy Spirit (6:19).

a. The Spirit Within Us Provides

i. *A Moral Compass, so Your Work Doesn't Corrupt You.*

ii. *Soul Rest, so Your Work Doesn't Consume You.*

- 1. Christ's work on your behalf is the most validating experience of your life.

V. 3 Pieces of Pastoral Advice Regarding Work

a. Trust the Lord Has You Where He Wants You For This Season of Your Life.

- i. If the Lord wants to call you elsewhere later, He will make that clear.

b. Take Inventory on Your Gifts, Abilities, History and Passions.

- i. Consider the ways in which you're able to honor the Lord by serving your fellow man.
- ii. Get Community Input.

c. Find Your Identity Not in Your Work, But in the Work that Christ has Done For you.

- i. "It is finished."