

WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK

Part 1: Why Work Is Very Good

WEEK OF APRIL 11, 2021

Work: It's what we dread. It's what we wish we didn't have to do. It's what stands between us and our happiness. Right? Or is there a better, richer vision for us and our work?

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- We either over-value work, or we under-value work.
 - [“Workism Is Making Americans Miserable” by Derek Thompson](#)
 - “What is workism? It is the belief that work is not only necessary to economic production, but also the centerpiece of one’s identity and life’s purpose.”
 - Finding a way to bring your strengths to your work—that’s a good thing.
 - Making work the centerpiece of my identity and my purpose—that’s not good.
 - The answer is not to find a way out of work. The answer is to find a way to transform work.
 - Your work matters to God, and God matters to your work.
 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. | **Genesis 1:1**
 - By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. | **Genesis 2:2**
 - Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. | **Genesis 2:15**
 - God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. | **Genesis 1:31**
 - Work is not a curse. Work is meant to be very good.
 - The purpose of the human experience is not to avoid work.
 - The question for us to engage this series: How can we do very good work?
 - “Love God with all your heart, mind, strength, and soul” doesn’t just apply to Sundays or select times in your life.
 - “Love your neighbor as yourself” - your work is just an extension of that.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Icebreaker: What work did you dream of doing when you were a kid?
2. How would you describe your relationship with your work? (Do you hate it? Love it? Indifferent? Anxious because you’re looking for work or a change?)
3. Do you tend to over-value or over-identify with your work? Do you tend to under-value the work you do? Or do you fluctuate between those two?
4. God’s vision for us isn’t to avoid work; it’s to do very good work. (“Work is not a curse. Work is meant to be very good.”) How does that differ from the way you’ve thought about or approached work?
5. If I assume that my work should or could be very good, and that my work is an extension of loving God and loving my neighbor, what changes might you need to begin pursuing to reflect that belief?