



Spring 2024 Equip Night #2
January 24th, 2024
The Gospel & Vocation: Practice

Introduction & Central Question: *How does Jesus and the gospel redeem my work from futility?*

I. The Gospel Rewrites the Story of our Work

- **Ephesians 6:5-9:** *Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.*

The gospel rewrites the story of:

- My true boss
- My true paycheck
- My true performance metrics

II. The Gospel Reorients the Setting of our Work

- **1 Corinthians 7:17-24:** *Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.*

My identity in society is now defined by the fact that I work for Jesus at my particular job, not by the fact that I work a particular job and happen to be a follower of Jesus.

III. The Gospel Redefines Success in our Work

Rather than simply working for a paycheck or advancement, Jesus & the apostles give us different metrics of success:

- Excellence (Colossians 3:17)
- Integrity (Colossians 3:23)
- Community (Colossians 3:24)

Conclusion: *What should the gospel change about my work & how I do it?*

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you as particularly challenging, convicting, or encouraging from this session?
2. How can we work faithfully in a vocational environment that is often driven by meritocracy & worldly success (*paycheck, advancement, etc.*)?
3. Where do you feel the tension between doing the right thing vs. the 'profitable' thing?
4. How does a gospel orientation intersect and/or contradict our modern ideas of "career?"
5. How will you find and hold onto the connection between your work and fulfilling Jesus' command to love your neighbor?
6. Since work involves word and deed, how should we strive to talk with and about our boss? Those we lead? Co-workers? Customers? Etc.
7. How can you make your work more beneficial for the common good?
8. Is there anything you need to stop doing relative to your work based on what you've heard tonight? Is there anything you need to start doing?

Prayer Time

After working through the questions above (*or if there are less than 5 minutes remaining*), end your time praying together with your group. Pray through anything that was a particular emphasis in the discussion and for each of us to be faithful wherever God has called us to vocationally, using our gifts to love him and love others.

