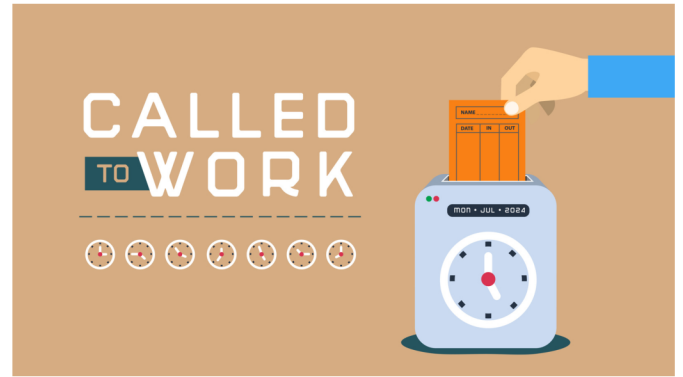




07.14.24

Group Guide

Vocation as Ministry



Introduction

You might be surprised by this, but God has plans for your work. No matter where you work or what it is you do, you can serve God through your career and in your workplace. In week one, Pastor Chip taught how you **view** work, how you **do** work, and what **motivates** you to do work is the key to seeing your work as ministry, regardless of your occupation or job description.

Discussion

1. Before hearing from Pastor Chip, would you have viewed your work — whether it's manual labor, caring for family, working retail, or creating spreadsheets — as ministry? Or as separate worlds in the secular/sacred divide we tend to create? Why?
2. **God joyfully works and created work as a gift to us.** Revisit and read Genesis 2:1-3 & 2:15-20. Even if it's difficult due to sin in our world, do you see your work as a gift right now? What's most likely to rob this perspective from you? What do you need to help protect this truth in your life day-to-day?
3. **God gave us work as a way to serve him and others.** Revisit and read Colossians 3:23-24. Doing your work with excellence is an act of worship (an offering to God) when we use the gifts and talents he's given us. What unique strengths of yours can you identify (or others have identified in you) that you know have the opportunity to benefit your workplace and the people in it? If you have any stories, share them with your group.
4. **Our work is ministry when we work from a transformed heart.** You will not have a meaningful life without work, but you cannot make work the ultimate meaning of your life. Read that sentence again. Is God's love and acceptance of you through Jesus the ultimate meaning of your life right now? Or do you find yourself working for the praise of others? What's at risk if you define your identity through your work?

5. As you jump into your job this week, what priorities is your heart going to run to first? How do you need to set yourself up for your particular work environment? Take a look at the application points below and share some potential strategies together.

Application

- **Remember who you serve.** We may have bosses, but we serve the God of the universe in our work. Being motivated by his love for us (rather than the love of your supervisor) will help increase your gratitude and personal standards.
- **Remember who you are serving.** Whether it's a client, consumer, your family, or a co-worker, you don't just work for you. You have the opportunity (and responsibility) to serve those around you in a way that points to God's love for you.
- **Remember it's a gift.** Sometimes it's going to feel like it, other times it won't. And, it can be difficult to hold to these truths in difficult moments; help build up these truths in your thought life by returning to them on a regular basis with Jesus both outside and inside your work environment.