



THE INSIDE RUNNING

What motivates a man to go to work?

The simple answer would be that we need the money. Especially if you have a family, there is an innate desire to "protect and serve" by providing for them – the hunter.

Going deeper, most of us are strongly motivated by a sense of purpose, wanting to accomplish something significant, and a desire for respect for a job well done. For Christians, we can easily feel that 'secular' work isn't as honourable as 'ministry' work. Pat Morley tackles this misconception in the lead article.

Recently several of us from the Promise Keepers office visited the New Lynn rail trench construction project. Cecelia works with us and her husband Phil is a foreman on the project. It was a fascinating tour and Phil is proud to be part of such a massive work. There have been 1.2 million hours spent on it so far. Phil enjoyed showing us around and he was really chuffed to show Cecelia what he has been doing. With their second wedding anniversary coming up, there also seemed to be some romance in the air!

Whatever you face in your work situation, do your best to overcome problems with grace and a positive attitude. We are all ambassadors for Christ!

John
John Subritzky



Phil and Cecelia, New Lynn Rail Trench

A MAN'S GUIDE TO WORK

Pat Morley

You were created to work, and you will feel most happy, most alive, and most useful when you are doing the work you were created to do.

Most men do not have what we might call "a theology of work." They feel theologically stranded... They have not been trained for the marketplace.

Ask most Christian men, "Is business or plumbing a calling, like being a pastor? What is God's purpose for you in the marketplace?" and you will probably get blank stares. That's not because the Bible is thin on the subject. Far from it. The Bible is replete with wisdom for every work situation you will ever encounter.

Calling: Businessman, Plumber, or Minister - Same Thing

We should regard work not just as a platform for ministry - work is ministry, and we are stewards put in charge until Jesus comes back; a fifth column who infiltrate a world stained by sin, acting as salt that preserves the way of Christ and light that leads broken people out of darkness.

Same Work, Two Results

Picture two airline ticket agents. They do exactly the same job, but one views his work as something he does to earn money, so when he finishes his shift, he can do what he really wants to

do. He is easily irritated by customers complaining when their travel plans go awry.

The second agent views his work as a calling. Every time someone comes to him with a problem, he sees it as an opportunity to serve the customer and represent his great God. The agent does what he was called to do to the glory of God, even when facing resistance from a particular customer.

That second ticket agent understands the big idea of this chapter: Whether you're a businessman or a minister, your work is a calling. It has intrinsic value, and it has potential to bear eternal fruit that honours God.

Is Work a Blessing or a Curse?

Many assume that work is part of the curse that resulted from Adam and Eve's sin - what we commonly call "the fall". As a result of that sin, God told Adam, "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you... By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground" (Genesis 3:17-19).

Ouch! But work itself was created prior to the fall in Genesis 2 as a blessing from God, not in Genesis 3 where, because of the fall, work was made

continued over >

difficult. Because of the fall, though, we must do our work while feeling the prick of thorns -- it is both a blessing and a curse.

Is a Career in Ministry More Spiritual than a Career in Business?

Once I visited a church in my hometown. The guest preacher said, in essence, that if you really love Jesus, you will go to the mission field. When the service was over, I slinked out of the sanctuary. I felt that if I didn't become a full-time career missionary, I always would be a second-class citizen in God's kingdom.

That distorted view, severing our work life from our spiritual life, is biblically inaccurate. Work can be a calling just like going into the ministry. Every vocation is holy to the Lord. God makes no distinction between sacred and secular. The word secular is not in the Bible.

Twentieth-century evangelical theologian and philosopher Francis Schaeffer, noted, "...a ministry such as teaching the Bible in a college is no higher calling intrinsically than being a businessman or doing something else."

You are an "Ordained" Worker

A man once told me, "All my life I wanted to be a high school maths teacher. Finally, my dream came true. But I soon saw two problems. First, my students were coming to class with problems maths can't solve. Second, the Christian teachers in my school

don't know each other. God has put a vision in my mind about how to address those two issues. I am an ordained maths teacher."

He sure got that right. If you are a Christian in the marketplace you are "ordained" to that position.

Work Should Bring Glory to God

Not everything you do has to result in someone's immediate salvation. Just working in a way that wins the respect of other people is valuable to God's kingdom. Living out your calling will enhance God's reputation in our culture.

Simply put, your work is a summons to follow Jesus. It enables you to go where Jesus would go, to be what Jesus would be, and to do what Jesus would do. We will experience resistance -- that's part of the curse. But when we see work as a calling, we know we can do it for God's glory.

Work is a noble and holy vocation. Regardless of whether you're a businessman or a minister, your work is a calling. It has intrinsic value, and it has potential to bear eternal fruit.

I pray your work will be a place where you can feel happy, alive, and useful because you know that you're doing what you were created to do.



Excerpt from *A Man's Guide to Work* by Pat Morley - bestselling author, Founder and CEO of Man in the Mirror.

SUCCESSING AT WORK

Work dominates our lives. If you are a typical Kiwi, by the time you're 45-54, you'll spend about 106,000 hours, or about 30% of the waking hours of your life, at work. You'll spend more time working, thinking about work, and commuting to work than you do eating, relaxing, and holidaying combined.

Since work comprises such a major component of your life, God wants you to succeed in it. In fact, he's ready to help you out. In the Bible God offers this guarantee: **"Commit your work to the Lord, then it will succeed."** (Prov 16:3)

What does it mean to "commit your work to the Lord"? How do you do it?

1. **Seek God's direction.** (Prov 15:8)
2. **Sharpen your skills.** (Eccl 10:10)
3. **Stay positive in your attitude.** (Col 3:23)
4. **Share your profits.** (Prov 3:9-10)

Excerpt from "Succeeding at Work" by Ian Buckley www.newhope.net.nz

Quotes

We were meant to enjoy our work, and that's the best thing we can do. We can never know the future. Ecclesiastes 3:22

When the Lord has a job for you to do. He'll give you the strength and the ability to do it. No one has ever measured the inventiveness that Christ awakens in a man's soul because it is beyond measurement. - R G Le Tourneau

Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, "Certainly, I can!" Then get busy and find out how to do it. - Theodore Roosevelt

I worked my way up from nothing to a state of extreme poverty. - Groucho Marx

Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and never succeed. Proverbs 12:24



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