



Part 1: Hard Work 101

Pastor Grant Fishbook

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A Simple Theology of Work

Work is God-ordained, God-designed and God-purposed

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*

Work is hard

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,'

"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, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." – *Genesis 3:17-19*

Work is joyful

So I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work, because that is his lot. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him? – *Ecclesiastes 3:22*

Work is worship

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. – *Colossians 2:23-24*

Work is responsibility

For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." – *2 Thessalonians 3:10*

Work is non-negotiable

The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. – *Proverbs 21:25*

Work is not the essence of life

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? – *Mark 8:36*

Work is not salvation

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. – *1 Corinthians 15:10*

Work is balanced with godly rest

For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must be put to death.

– *Exodus 31:15*

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Some Tough Biblical Questions

Has work become your god?

Has laziness become your convenient excuse?

Have you lost your joy and your worship in your work?

Have you shirked your God-given responsibility for work?

Have you tried to work for God's approval?

Are you balancing work with godly rest?

Next Steps

When was the last time you thanked God for your job? Take a moment and be thankful to God for his provision. Pray for your employer, your coworkers and your attitude about work.

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) What was your very first job? What year was it? How much did you make? Why did you leave?
- 2) If you could switch careers right now, what would you choose to be?
- 3) Why do you think God created us to work? Did you assume that work was created before the curse or that work was a result of the curse?
- 4) Have you found ways to make your work an act of worship? Explain.
- 5) Which of the tough biblical questions listed above challenges you the most? Why?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?