

Our Work is Worship to God - Teaching Outline

Main Point:

Creative and productive work is part of God's nature and character; therefore, the entirety of our lives and businesses should be seen and practiced as worship unto the Lord.

I. God is a Worker and Created Us to Work

- John 5:17
- Genesis 2:15

II. Purpose Yields Productivity

A.W. Tozer: *"It's not WHAT a man does, but WHY he does it that makes his work secular or sacred."*

Purpose gives Vision - Vision produces Passion - Passion produces ENERGY

As you connect to God's larger plan, your perspective will change. You are no longer just "in business" to survive, but are engaged and serving as God's representative in business to bring His Kingdom into present day reality.

III. Excellence Earns Respect

Others will judge us based on the way we live and how we do our business. If we produce excellence, live honestly, and treat people with dignity, then we will gain the respect of peers and those in our zone of influence. Our influence will grow as our reputation for excellence grows. Ultimately, people will want to hear what we say, and do what we do. This affords us the opportunity to point people to Jesus Christ as they see His life portrayed through our lives.

Excellence is a characteristic of God

Example: Many Christians in the United States put the fish logo on their business cards and advertise as a "Christian business," yet some produce low-quality work or may not deliver on their promises.

Questions regarding excellence:

- Do you go the extra mile in getting the job done, even if no one else will know about it?
- Do you attack every job and task with fervor?
- Do you follow through on your commitments?
- Do you stay current in your profession?

- Are you constantly learning and keeping your edge?

IV. Problem Solvers Will Lead

“Find a need and fill it.”

Example: In Joseph Prahala’s book *The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid*, he makes a case for huge business opportunities among the poorest, most underserved markets in developing nations. Out of 6 billion people in the world, 4 billion earn less than \$2 US per day, but they make up a largely underserved market that is willing to pay for goods and services if delivered in the right ways of low cost and low quantity.

Entrepreneurs are opportunists. They see problems as opportunity niches for business.

If you are willing and able to meet and anticipate needs, prosperity will find you.

Solving problems that benefit people and society honors God and gives credibility

V. God’s Anointing is Your Competitive Advantage

Jesus is the Vine of Life. When we draw near to Him through prayer and relationship, He produces life and energy which affect the way we live. His qualities and anointing set us apart from the rest of people, giving us a *distinct difference*.

God’s anointing brings *Divine Favor* - (2 Chronicles 16:9)

God’s anointing brings *Divine Creativity* - (Colossians 1:16)

God’s anointing brings *Divine Discernment* - (Psalm 25:14)

God’s anointing brings *Divine Wisdom* - (Proverbs 1:7)

God’s anointing allows the *Fruits of the Spirit to Flourish* - (Galatians 5:22-23)

VI. Stewardship Precedes Promotion

Steward: one who manages another’s assets.

God has called us to steward His creation and our lives. We are to be faithful with what God has given us *now* so that we can later be entrusted with more. *What is in your hands right now?*

- Good stewards are *faithful*.
- Good stewards are *productive*.

- *Promotion* comes after one has faithfully stewarded and produced fruit in his or her current situation.

VII. Focused Planning + Follow Through = Success

God is a strategic planner. He planned all of creation and has a plan for each individual. Jesus speaks to the concept of planning and following through in Luke 14:28-30. God finishes what He starts!

Applying a Focus Strategy:

The Pareto Principle or the 80/20 Rule says:

- 20% of people create 80% of overall productivity
- 20% of people generate 80% of the profits
- 20% of focused effort will make an 80% difference in overall operations

This principle can apply to most aspects of business and life. A leader must be able to focus on the tasks that will bring the greatest return on effort and time.

Great leaders are able to identify and focus on the right things and follow through on the most important tasks.

Take some time to answer these questions:

If I could do just 3 things that would make at least a 50% difference, what would they be?

In the next 90 days:

In the next year:

In the next 3 years:

In my lifetime:

This exercise will help you pinpoint the crucial things that you should be focusing on. Once you have answered this question in each category of time, you can begin to structure your daily, weekly and monthly tasks and priorities to reflect your focused goals.

As you review your focused goals, make adjustments as necessary. If you discipline yourself to stay focused on what's important and not let the "little things" disrupt your productivity, you will have success.

VIII. Integrity & Character will Win in the End

Christians in business around the world face enormous challenges when surrounded by corruption and dishonest practices. Many times it seems like the unrighteous always seem to flourish and prosper.

Practicing integrity means being whole and consistent both in public and private. The Bible says that everything will be revealed.

- The inheritance of the unrighteous is destruction. Read Psalm 92:6-7
- The inheritance of the righteous is eternal life and reward. Read Matthew 19:29.

IX. Your Prayer Life is Crucial to Your Business Success

God is sovereign yet He is moved by our prayers. There are instances in the Bible where the prayers of people changed the mind of God. The fervent prayers of the righteous produce much.

- Pray Specific Prayers
 - Pray over people by name, pray over specific contracts, situations, specific relationships, processes, etc.
- Cover the Borders of Your Business and Ministry with Prayer
 - Pray over every aspect of your business including jobs, resources, employees, customers, integrity, systems, etc.
- Pray for a Renewed Mind to See Things the Way God Sees Them
 - Claim the mind of Christ to handle your life and business His way
- Enlist and Cultivate Intercession for Your Business
 - Inform intercessors about specific situations to pray for
- Pray Prayers of Agreement with Others
 - Co-Workers
 - Spouse
 - Family
 - Partners