

“Finding a Job You Can Love”

Text: Ecclesiastes 5:18-19

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PRAY!

This morning we continue our series, “Your Job Matters,” looking at “Finding a Job You Can Love.” I want to thank Rick Warren for being a resource for this series.

God wants you to enjoy your job, but the fact is most people don't. A recent survey said 82% of the people say, “I hate my job.” That's incredible. Another survey done by the Princeton Research and Marketing Corporation of Princeton, New Jersey, said that between fifty and eighty percent of all Americans are in the wrong career because it doesn't match their gifts and abilities. The sad thing is that job frustration affects every other area of our lives. When you don't like your work, your attitude takes a toll on your family. You become a grouch.

God wants your work to be fulfilling.

- Jesus, *“I have brought you glory on earth...” “It is finished!”*
- Ecclesiastes 5:18, *“This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for people to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor ...”*
- Circle “satisfaction”. The Bible says it's good and it's proper to enjoy your job.
- Ecclesiastes 5:19 in the Living Bible says, *“To enjoy your work and to accept your lot in life, that indeed is a gift from God.”*

Job satisfaction is a combination of three factors: Having the right place and the right perspective and the right purpose equals job satisfaction. Today I want us to look at the right perspective and having the right place to work.

HAVING THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

Maybe the problem isn't your job, it's your attitude. Maybe you need to look at your job in a new way. Three perspectives the Bible says you need to have for your work:

1. Work for the Lord

- A. Colossians 3:23, *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”* Paul is saying that, no matter where you work or what you do, you can do it for the Lord. You can serve burgers for the Lord. You can mow lawns for the Lord. Whatever you do, it says, don't do it as if you're doing it for your human boss, do it as if you're doing it for the Lord.

2. You work like the Lord.

- A. Have the same attitude, the same spirit that Jesus had. What was His spirit? Mark 10:45, *“The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve.”* Jesus focused on the needs of others. He was always looking at, What can I give to my work? not, What can I get out of my job?
- B. Definition of a servant attitude: A servant attitude is becoming excited about making your boss successful; becoming excited about making the people around you successful.
1. Glen Eyrie

3. Expect your reward from the Lord.

- A. If you're working for the Lord and like the Lord, you can expect an eternal reward from the Lord. Colossians 3:24 (Good News), *“Remember that the Lord will reward you for Christ is the real master you serve.”*

These three perspectives regardless of what you do will help your job become more meaningful and satisfying.

Once our perspective is right, we need to ask, how do I find the right kind of job? The Bible says that the first thing you need to do is look at yourself; do a personal assessment. Today I want to give you four things to help you evaluate your life so you can better understand yourself. Once you understand yourself, you can know what kind of job is best suited for you.

1. EVALUATE YOUR PAST WORK.

- A. Your personal history tells a whole lot about you – what your work history looks like. Galatians 6:4 (Phillips), *“Let everyone learn to assess properly the value of their own work, then you can be rightly proud when you have done something worth doing without depending on the approval of others.”* Circle “assess properly”. The Bible says you are to assess properly your work. When you do that, when you look at your past, you want to ask yourself a question.
- B. **What have I enjoyed doing?** There are certain common abilities that rise to the top no matter what job you've had; there's a thread running through them all. There are certain things that motivate you, inspire you, that get you going in the morning. Regardless of the job, you find those things motivating.
1. You have a lot of abilities. But there are a few abilities that you not only do well but you enjoy doing. That basic motivational thrust is a crucial point in deciding what kind of job I ought to have.
 - Some of you were born organizers. When you were a kid your room was spotless, and there was a place for everything. Today, if we looked inside your closet, all the blue clothes are together, all the brown clothes are together, all the shoes are facing the right way. You're an organizer and God made you that way.
 - Some of you are born collectors. My mom is a born collector. She collects spoons, roosters, nutcrackers, etc.

- Some of you are born performers. You popped out of the womb with a microphone in your hand. “Hey doc! Did you hear the one about the salesman?...” It’s natural. That’s the way you are. Nothing is going to change it.
3. You need to figure out, “What do I enjoy doing?” It’s key.
- C. If you want to find a job that is really fulfilling, you need to find a job that matches what you already like to do. Some of you like to work with numbers, or words, or money, or people, or mechanical things. God made you that way. It’s ok!

2. EVALUATE YOUR ABILITIES.

- A. Not just your past work but you need to evaluate your abilities.
Romans 12:3 (Phillips translation), “*Try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of your faith God has given to you.*” Check your abilities. Don’t overestimate them. Don’t underestimate them. Have a realistic estimate of your capabilities.
- B. Romans 12:6 (Living Bible), “*God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.*” Paul’s talking about spiritual gifts here, yet the point is that every one of you can do something better than somebody else. We have different abilities. Paul’s saying that you need to evaluate that.
1. Writing, speaking, building, evaluating, performing, selling?
- C. One of the major causes of conflict in marriages is when husbands and wives don’t understand their abilities and one of the spouses is better at something than the other, but you’ve got the roles reversed. I’m better at ironing than my wife—and she admits it. Maximize your strengths. Nobody is good at everything.
- E. Parents, one of the most important things you can do is to help your children identify (a) their basic motivational bent, and (b) their abilities, their natural God-given abilities. Don’t try to make them good at the things you’re good at. If you’re good at sports and they’re not, who cares? You need to find out what they’re good at and encourage them to move in the area that God has already gifted them in. They’ll find so much more fulfillment and satisfaction in life and it will be easier on you.

3. YOU NEED TO EVALUATE YOUR WORK ENVIRONMENT.

- A. God has made every one of us unique. So we work best under different conditions and circumstances.
1. Acts 15:36-41 – The story of Paul and Barnabus. They had been partners on their first missionary journey into Asia and were very effective. Yet, when they were planning their second journey one of the reasons they split-up their ministry was over differing work styles. Barnabus wanted to take John Mark with them, who deserted them on their first journey, to mentor him. Paul was a Type A personality, driven, wanting to work with people who were driven, not those who might give up on tasks. He didn’t want John Mark with them. Paul and Barnabus had a different approach to their work environment.

- B. Ask yourself, “In what work environment am I the most productive?”
 - 1. Structure or non-structured environment
 - 2. A competitive work environment or one that is collaborative, a team environment.
 - 3. A pressured environment or one that is not pressured.
- C. Figure out which work environment you enjoy before you ever look at the want ads.

4. EVALUATE HOW YOU NATURALLY RELATE TO OTHER PEOPLE.

- A. This is more important than your abilities. Why? The number one reason for job frustration is the inability to get along with others; conflicts with other people. You don’t understand their style, they don’t understand your style, or you have a style that does not fit the environment that you are in.
- B. There are many ways to relate to people. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 says, *“Warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everybody.”* Notice there are four different ways of relating to people in this passage.
 - 1. Some of you are great warn-ers. You have the ability to go up to people and say, “You’re blowing it!” Others of you are encouragers. Some of you are helpers... different ways. My guess is you’re probably better at one of these than you are at the others. My guess is you have a natural bent in which you normally relate and react to people.
 - Team member, independent worker, leader, coordinator, coach?
 - 2. So, if you have the relating temperament of a Marine drill sergeant, don’t apply to be a kindergarten teacher. If you’re a born salesman, don’t try to be a librarian. How you relate to others is very important.
- C. You need to figure out your style of relating to others.

We’ve talked about job satisfaction. You will never find a job in which you’re 100% fulfilled because God never intended for you to be 100% fulfilled in your job.

- He wants you to be fulfilled by your family and in meaningful relationships with other Christians in a church, and with others at work.
- He wants you to be fulfilled in a ministry.
- He wants you to find fulfillment in recreation.
- But ultimately, He wants you to find your fulfillment in Him, in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

PRAY!

Father, I want to thank You that You’re very concerned about even the practical issues of life like work, career, how we work and where we work and when and why. Today, maybe some of us have caught a glimpse of your plan for our lives: you made us very special and very unique. Father, true fulfillment comes from fitting into the plan that you have – one made before we were born. Thank You that today there are people who are opening their lives to You for the very first time. Help them to sense Your love and call upon their lives. In Jesus’ name. Amen.