

Everybody's Working

Called to Work

Work is the response to a call. Not to self-expression, but to self-donation. If work is about me, then it will always involve fruitless and pointless toil. But if work is about responding to a call outside of myself...if it is about responding to a need outside of myself...then work is free to simply “be work”. And we can cease to look to work for validation, identity, and meaning.

Discussion Questions

1. What would be your dream job? If you could do anything to make a living, what would it be? Why?
 2. We often experience work as something other than mere “work”. We experience work as “toil”. It can feel fruitless and pointless. Have you had this experience? Discuss.
 3. Robert Bellah’s description of “expressive individualism” can be seen in the way many people approach their jobs as their avenue for self-expression. Are there good elements to this attitude? What are they? Are there dangers in this kind of thinking? Discuss.
 4. Bellah claims that a rediscovery of “vocation” is the answer to expressive individualism. The ability to see one’s work as a *response* to a need outside of one’s self. Have you experienced this? What are some ways vocation could help someone escape the fear of pointless and fruitless work?
 5. Hearing God’s call can sometimes be as simple as recognizing something inside one’s self that another person needs. In this light, are there ways that you “live” vocation on a regular basis? Discuss.
 6. Have you ever entered into a work solid in your identity and purpose? Knowing that you are a beloved child of God, did this affect how you approached the work? If so, what was that like? If not, how might it have changed your experience?
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God in Real Life

1. Spend time this week reflecting on your identity and purpose in Christ. Identity comes before the work God has for you. Be intentional about bringing your true identity to whatever work God is calling you to do this week.
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To the Heart

“See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are.” ~1 John 3:1