

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Work as an Act of Love

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
March 19, 2023



What does it look like for our work to be an act of love?

“Work is an activity involving mental, physical, or spiritual effort, done to achieve a purpose or result.”

- **Live for Jesus where God has assigned you.**

Corinthians 7:17 (NIV) “Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.” *

Writer Robert Bellah says that “work is a vocation or calling, a contribution to the good of all and not merely...a means to one’s own advancement...to one’s self-fulfilment and power.”

- **Work is a calling when we see it as God’s assignment to serve others.**

Colossians 3:23-24 (AMP) “Whatever you do [whatever your task may be], work from the soul [that is, put in your very best effort], as [something done] for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [greatest] reward. It is the Lord Christ whom you [actually] serve.”

Important Question: How with my existing abilities & opportunities can I be of greatest service to other people, knowing what I know of God’s will & human need?

Mark 12:29-31 (NLT) Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

- **Work becomes a way to love God freely, & love our neighbour generously.**

“Through our work we can touch God in a variety of ways...but if the call of the Christian is to participate in God’s ongoing creative process, the bedrock of our ministry has to be competency. We must use our talents in as competent a manner as possible.” William E. Diehl A Spirituality of Competence

- **Competent work is a means to love others well.**

2 Corinthians 3:5 (NIV) “Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.”

“We make a living by what we make but we make a life by what we give.” Winston Churchill.

“Even though all work is objectively valuable to others, it will not be subjectively fulfilling unless you consciously see and understand your work as a calling to love your neighbour.” Martin Luther

Big Idea: Love God & love others through your competent work.

Where can you grow in doing more competent work as an extension of God’s love?

A Liturgy Before Serving Others Every Moment Holy Douglas McKelvey

*** Helpful Resource: Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope – by Esau McCaulley**



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Work as an Act of Love
#2 of 3 - March 19, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at the design and dignity of work. How did your action step go? In what ways have you been able to understand and approach your work from this perspective?
- 2) Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-24. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passage? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us and what does this tell us about the work we do? What does it mean to do "Christian work" in light of this passage?
- 5) Read Colossians 3:23-24. What does this tell us about the work we do? How does this inform our view and understanding of life and work?
- 6) Read Mark 12:29-31. How do these commands relate to our work? In what ways can we love God and love our neighbour through our work?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this passage? (Take some time for Listening Prayer). Where can you grow in doing more competent work as an extension of God's love?



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