

FAMILIES THAT... WORK TOGETHER

I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless...¹⁸ I hated all the things I had toiled for... because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. ...²⁰ So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor...²¹ For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-18, 20-21 (NIV)

❖ Why Work Doesn't Work for Us...

1. When we work just to get more STUFF.

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop.¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'¹⁸ "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'²¹ "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:16-21 (NIV)

1. When we work out of PRIDE or to grow our EGO.

This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches,²⁴ but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NIV)

2. When we work to earn the LOVE and APPROVAL of others.

Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.

Philippians 2:3 (NLT)

❖ How Can We Lead Our Family to Understand the Value of Work?

1. HONOR GOD in and through your work.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

2. FOLLOW your LEADERS.

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)

3. Choose to BE HAPPY.

God gives man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them; to accept his lot and be happy in his work-this is a gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NIV)

4. Be a TEAM PLAYER.

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God... ⁷made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant...

Philippians 2:4-7

5. WORK HARD and give it your best effort.

Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 (NIV)

If a man will not work, he shall not eat.

2 Thessalonians 3:11 (NIV)

6. Take time to RELAX and REST from work.

By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

Genesis 2:2 (NIV)

"Six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work."

Exodus 23:12 (NIV)

7. Don't GIVE UP... God is not FINISHED with you yet.

Steady plodding brings prosperity.

Proverbs 21:5 (LB)

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

❖ Closing Challenge: Lead your family well to ENJOY the VALUE of work.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6 (KJV)

Parents, don't come down too hard on your children or you'll crush their spirits.

Colossians 3:21 (MSG)