November 15, 2020 Pastor John Welborn

From the Inside Out

Vocational Health

Philippians 2:13

We are talking about health from the scriptures during a six-week series entitled *"From the Inside Out"* looking at what the Bible says about six different areas of personal health.

Foundational Principles of Health:

- **We have a Manufacturer**: *"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb."* **Psalm 139:13**
- **We have an Instruction Manual:** *"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."* **Psalm 119:11**
- **We have a Purpose:** *"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."* **1 Corinthians 10:31**

Vocation: This term originated in Christianity, & it is drawn from the Latin word *'vocare'* that means *'to call'*. This means that Christians don't have jobs or even careers; we have a calling known as a vocation.

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it." **Genesis 2:15**

"For it is God who works in you, both to will & to work for his good pleasure." **Philippians 2:13**

Main Idea: Vocational Health is Built on a Calling from God to Partner with Him

Two Aspects of Work that Foster Vocational Health:

I. Significance of Work - *"For it is God who works in you, both to will & to work…"* **Philippians 2:13a**

"…let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." **Hebrews 12:1a-2**

II. Results of Work - *"…for his good pleasure."* **Philippians 2:13b**

How do I please God in my vocation?

- Be Honest and Work Hard
- Make Money & Be Generous
- Evangelize my Coworkers
- Have a Joyful Attitude
- Further Justice and Righteousness in the World
- Connect the Dots Between God's Work & My Work

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." **Ephesians 2:10**

"No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him." **2 Timothy 2:4**.

Conclusion: God designed us for work and has given each of us a calling. Vocational health comes as we discover our calling and endeavor to partner with God in every aspect of it!

Practical Tips for Vocational Health:

- **Set Your Priorities:** If money, status, comfort or retirement is your first priority in your vocation, you will not find vocational health. Make partnering with and pleasing God your primary focus!
- **Don't Lose Your Identity:** You are not a _____ who happens to be a Christian; you are a Christian who happens to be a _____. Don't lose your identity in your job; it will set you up to be exploited and hurt.
- **Remember the Virtue:** Stop from time to time in order to connect the dots on why your job matters. Who is it helping? How is God pleased? How does my job arrange the world for human flourishing or beat back the effects of the curse of sin on the world?
- **Get a New Boss:** Easier said than done, huh? Well, we need to stop working for our supervisor and begin working for the Savior!

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord & not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." **Colossians 3:23-24**

Never forget, God's greatest work was accomplished by Jesus on the cross. It was there where the sins of the world were righteously punished and forgiveness was extended to sinners. The work of reconciliation between a holy God and sinful people was completed. Now salvation is available to anyone who turns to Jesus in faith because the work has been finished!

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *The Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Huges & Laney (2001)
- *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* – Craig S. Keener (1993)
- *New American Commentary:* Matthew – Craig Bloomberg (1992)
- *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* – Peter Scazzero (2006)
- *Every Good Endeavor* – Timothy Keller (2012)