



Intro to “Work vs. Calling”

This week we’re talking about work. Work is GREAT! Like food, work was given to us by God, essential for life. Also like food, too little is bad and too much is bad. And food and work tend to give us the most frequent opportunities to fulfill our purpose, declaring Christ to those around us. In this week’s discussion, think about your work, whether that’s a traditional “job,” or being a spouse or parent, or whatever work you do... Why do you do it? How is that work helping you know God and make him known? But instead of focusing on missed opportunities, wallowing in the guilt the enemy will throw at you, celebrate work in its proper context, and identify how this next week’s work might help you know God and make him known.

Part 1: Work vs. Calling

Text: 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Big Idea: Like everything else, work is for knowing God and making Him known.

From the Sermon (add your own notes here):

- I. Big “C” Calling:
Little “c” calling:

- II. Your work is for knowing God.

- III. Your work is for making God known.

Getting Started

Re-Read Colossians 4:2-6. How do these verses, and v. 5 in particular, apply to how we do our work?

Define “work” in your life. What do you do, whether in a job or at home? What is your work’s practical purpose?

Digging Deeper, Read 1 Cor. 7:17-24

1. What does it mean to you in verse 17 that your life has been “assigned” by the Lord?

Is that more comforting or frustrating? Why?

2. Verses 18-19, circumcision was a form of self-identity. Being Jew or Gentile dictated much of how Paul’s audience viewed themselves. What kinds of things do we use today to build our identity?

Where does your job fit into your identity?

3. Explain the difference between, as Pastor Nathan described it, Big “C” Calling and Little “c” calling.

Refer to 1 Cor. 1:9, Romans 8:29-30 for help.

4. How has your work recently helped you know God better? What opportunities has it provided for you to make him known?

Live It Out

Pray: Surrender your work to the larger mission of the gospel. Ask God to use your work for his glory, that you would know him more through work, and be able to make Him known.

Confess: How have you drawn your identity from work, success or failure? In what areas has the purpose for your work (money, success, recognition, etc.) exceeded your desire for God to be made known through it?

Act: Right now, consider the work you have in the next week. What opportunities might you have to either declare Christ or demonstrate his character through your work?