

THE ART OF CONTENTMENT

Staying Satisfied In Jesus

Part 4: The Work of Every Disciple



Discussion Questions:

What words would you use to describe your current (or last) job?

How contented do/did you feel at your current/last job

How have you seen God at work in the workplace?

The roots of discontentment:

Deception – I can believe lies about my situation

Comparison – What someone else has is better than what I have

Desire – What I don't have looks too good to pass up

Corrupted expectations – I deserve something I don't have

Misunderstood value – I don't see the good in what I already have

Stubborn entitlement – I must be given something no matter what

As followers of Jesus, we have a God-given call to be productive in the world, seeking to put our gifts and talents to use for the glory of God in every venue or endeavor.

However, our jobs are often the source of significant discontent in our lives. Thinking of our jobs as a vocation can broaden our understanding of our purpose in the world and affect our contentment in our work.

Vocation (n.) – _____

A Biblical picture of vocation:

God the _____ (Genesis 1:1)

The command to _____ (Genesis 1:28, 3:17-19)

A warning against _____ (Proverbs 6:6-11)

The Gospel permeates every area of life, including our vocation, so that motivation to work is _____.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Colossians 3:12-17

Colossians 3:22-25

We can choose our vocation with the intent of making work an _____, seeking ways for the Gospel to impact both the work and the workplace.

Psalms 90:12-17

Romans 12:1-2

Ephesians 2:8-10

Ways in which our work can correspond with God's:

_____ work (God's saving and reconciling actions):

Evangelists, pastors, counselors, but also writers, artists, performers

_____ work (God's fashioning of the physical and human world)

Artist, musicians, poets, craftspeople, builders, architects, etc.

_____ work (God's provision for and sustaining of creation)

Policy makers, shopkeepers, public service, finance, IT professionals, mechanics, engineers, electricians, plumbers, construction, etc.

_____ work (God's maintenance of justice)

Lawyers, judges, city and state officials, public safety, etc.

_____ work (God's labor toward comfort and healing)

Doctors, nurses, medical professionals, EMT, social workers, etc.

_____ work (God's work to enlighten creation with truth)

Preachers, scientists, educators, journalists, etc.

Caveat 1: Any vocation might introduce opportunities to _____. When confronted with sinful choices on the job, choose obedience to Christ rather than worldly success. (Matthew 6:25-34)

Caveat 2: Any vocation might partner you with _____ or _____ people. When confronted with tough relationships, be the light in the darkness (Matt. 5:1-16).