

**Foolproof  
Work as a Response- Week #8  
Small Group Notes  
February 18 and 21, 2021**

**Introduction:**

**What do you wish people knew about your work? What are ways that sometimes people mischaracterize what you do?**

**What is your favorite part of your job? What is your least favorite part?**

**What are ways sometimes that we can let our identity be only in our work instead of in Christ?**

The Book of Proverbs says nothing about job titles, but it does tell us a lot about how we are able to do our work. Our work is not always easy, but it is a noble, and Christ-honoring, thing to work and earn the money we need for daily living. For today's discussion we are going to see how work is a response in our worship.

**Discuss:**

1. Read Colossians 3:23-24; Romans 12:1-2

- Work is worship
- God is the foundation of our work

Explain: As Christians put on the new man, they will show a properly submissive attitude towards their **masters** – in a modern context, towards their employer or supervisor. We are always tempted to work just as hard as we have to, thinking we only have to please man. But God wants every worker to see that ultimately, they work for *Him*. Therefore, they should **do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men**. God promises to **reward** those who work with that kind of heart.

Ask:

**Why do you work? What motivates you to do excellent work? What motivated Paul? What can we learn from his example?**

**Read Colossians 3:23-24. How would you contrast working “only while being watched” and work that is done with “wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord”?**

**How might understanding that work is a gift, with which we are called to glorify God, change the way we approach our daily tasks?**

2. Read Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:15

- God gave work as a gift, not a noose.

Explain: God put Adam into the most spectacular paradise the world has seen, but God put Adam there to do *work* (**to tend and keep it**). Work is something good for man and was part of Adam’s perfect existence before the fall. Work is the first responsibility God gave to humanity, specifically the work of caring for His creation. As God designed it, work is something that is supposed to draw us closer to Him, to use our gifts to accomplish His purposes.

Ask:

**God gave Adam the specific responsibility to work and care for the garden of Eden. What does it tell you about God that He created us to work? What does this tell you about your relationship with Him?**

**What are some specific ways that our culture’s approach to work has strayed from God’s original design? How do you see this play out in your attitude toward work?**

3. Read Proverbs 6:6-11; Colossians 3:17; Psalm 127:1-2

- Working hard reflects the King.
- Working hard reveals our love for the King.
- Working hard reflects the love of the King to others.
- Working hard must be balanced with restorative rest.

Explain: A slacker is a lazy person (26:14) who hopes to sustain his life without actually working (20:4; 21:25)—he literally refuses to lift a hand (19:24). He makes excuses not to work (22:13). Unlike the oppressed (31:9), the slacker has brought his poverty on himself and is not an object of pity. His opposite is a diligent person (13:4). As the son listens to his father admonishing the slacker, he himself is warned against laziness (19:25). A wise person learns from observation and the best one for us to observe is Christ!

Ask:

**How might considering the work Christ accomplished for us on the cross change your perspective on your work? On your daily tasks?**

**What changes are needed in your own work habits and relationships in order for you to point people to Christ in the way that you work?**

**What step might you take this week to begin approaching your daily tasks with a gospel-centered perspective?**