

•Be willing to be different

“...live a life of love” Eph 5:1-2; also 1Jn 3; 1Cor 10:31

Look to the interests of others – Phil 2:3-4

Be creative

Invest in relationships

Don't discount making small differences

Be willing (potentially) to lose out

Gn 39; Dn 1:8-16; Dn 3; Dn 6; Mt 16:24, 6:19-20

Apply wisdom (& be prayerful) about when and how to swim against the tide

•Instruction for slaves & masters: “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men” – Eph 6:7; also 1Thess 2:4

Be a good employee

Respect for your boss/employer 1Tim 6:1; 1Pt 2:17-18; Mal 1:6

“Not just when their eye is on you” Col 3:22; Eph 6:6

Be a good boss

Servant-leaders Rm 13:4; also 1Ki 3:7

“Promote flourishing in those you manage”

Do you have influence to change your workplace culture?

7. Work and rest

To replenish body and mind... but not just this.

“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” Mk 2:27

•Applying the principles behind the Sabbath

A time to enjoy and honour the goodness of God's creation Ex 20:8-11

A declaration of our freedom Dt 5:12-15

An act of trust Mt 6:25-34

The Sabbath points forward to the new creation Heb 4



WEDNESDAY CENTRAL

Work

1. Creation and work – Genesis 1-2

•God works 2:2

•Work is a good thing 1:10, 25, 31

•We are made in God's image 1:27

•We are made to work 2:5, 1:28

Ruling on God's behalf 2:19-20;

In relationship 2:20

“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it”
subdue = develop

2. The Fall and work – Genesis 3

•Work is marred because of the Fall Gn 3:14-19

Eccl 1:2-3, 2:4-11,17-23; Rm 8:20-21

2b. BUT... the Fall doesn't reverse the creation mandate

Gn 9:1,7; Eccl 2:24-25, 5:18-20

•**Work is cultivation of God's creation:** Gn 2:15

•**Work provides for others:** Ps 145:15

God provides for creation through work by Christians & non-Christians

A manifestation of love for others

Serve God by doing your job as well as it can be done

The value of your work is not determined by its results

Satisfaction in work even if not in a 'high-status' job

3. Redemption and work

•**A new identity – Not saved by work(s)** Eph 2:4-10

4. The new creation and work

•**No more thorns!** Rev 22:3,5

•**We'll still have jobs** Lk 19:15-19

5. Our big picture and work

•New identity → **A sense of perspective**

Our job (/performance in it) is not the source of our identity 1Cor 6:11

Thinking on Jesus as Saviour showing you your value

Is work an idol?

What makes you stressed/anxious at work and why?

How do you feel if you are overlooked for promotion?

Heb 13:5; Prov 21:1, Ps 75:6-7

How would you feel if you lost your job?

Making choices about work

"How can I best get on in my career?"

"What kind of life overall will most be getting behind what God is doing in the world?"

Looking for a job? 1Cor 7:17-24

6. Practical implications for our work

•**Be a witness at work**

Mt 28:18-20 (cf Gn 1:28)

The workplace is a mission field

What we say and *how* we work...

•**Work at Christ-like character at work!** Eph 5:1-2; Eph 4:31

Health warning: beware getting identity from performance as a Christian.

"Be imitators of God therefore, as dearly loved children..." Eph 5:1-2

Honesty, integrity, reliability Prov 12:22, 21:6, 6:17,19; 11:1; 24:26, 28; Mt 5:37

More demanding than not telling outright lies!

Mercy, forgiving spirit, overlooking offences, not seeking revenge,

Willingness to apologise, promoting reconciliation,

Patience, self-control,

Fairness, humility, respect for others, not exploiting,

Kindness, generosity