

1. **GOD LOVES YOU** and wants you to have **eternal life with Him**.

*John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."*

But most people aren't experiencing a meaningful life and aren't sure that they have eternal life because...

2. Man has a **SIN problem** which **SEPARATES** him from GOD. Every one has sinned.

*Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*

3. The **good news** is that **JESUS CHRIST** is God's **solution** to your sin problem. He is the **ONLY way** to heaven.

*1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."*

4. Therefore you must **REPENT** of your sins and place your **FAITH** in **JESUS alone** to **save** you.

*Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the GIFT OF GOD; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."*

5. Upon believing and receiving Jesus, you have a **NEW LIFE** with complete assurance of **SALVATION**.

*1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."*

*Portraits of Love-Driven Obedience: The Servant Disciple Part 2*

Last Sunday we learned that Christ supplies the church with "ministers" (namely, the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) to equip every believer for the exercise of their gifts in works of service so the body of Christ may be built up. (Ephesians 4:7, 11-12). Such engagement by the ministers through equipping and by the servant disciples through works of service takes place in community which leads to spiritual maturity. Let us now consider why it is just as important for a disciple of Christ to have a biblical view of his works of service, this time, in the marketplace, in the schools and in the homes.

First, it is in the marketplace, in the schools and in the homes where we spend most of our time. Second, Christian discipleship must encompass ALL of life. There should not be a dichotomy or disconnect between life lived in the community of faith and life lived in the marketplace, in the schools, and in the homes. Third, having a biblical view of work should propel us to be truly engaged in what we do, regardless of the nature of the work.

**Simply put: our work matters to God whatever that vocation maybe.**

In Genesis 1 and 2:2 we can draw three points regarding the Creation account and work:

**I. Work is NOT an option.**

**A. Work is not option because God, our Creator, is Himself a worker. (Genesis 1:1-25)**

Verse 1 says: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The very first time that God appears in the Bible we see Him as a worker who created the world from nothing. Genesis 2:2 describes His activity in Genesis 1 as *Melachah* (Hebrew for work), the same word used in Exodus 20:9-10 about working for 6 days and ceasing to work on the seventh day as a Sabbath to the Lord. It is the same word used in 1 Kings 5:16 when Solomon drafted 30,000 men to work in building the temple and in 1 Chronicles 6:49 in relation to Aaron and his sons when they performed work at the Most Holy Place. Work rendered in the marketplace is no less sacred than the work rendered in church. So, God is a worker in the beginning before the world came into existence and he continues to work today.

**B. The second point is that Work is not an option because God created us to be like Him - a worker.**

In Genesis 1:26-28, Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. When God created man, He did so in his own image and likeness. Clearly, therefore, you and I were created to be workers as well.

**II. Work is NOT a curse but a blessing.**

**A. God created us in His image and likeness to rule and subdue what He has made. (Gen. 1:26-29).**

Having dominion over God's creation and subduing obviously involves work, and work is also God's creation! In the Genesis narrative regarding God's creation, the phrase "And God saw that it was good" appeared six times. In verse 31, following the creation of man, the phrase used is not just good but "it was very good." So, clearly, God's creation, the object of our work, is good in God's sight.

## Portrait of a Love-Driven Obedience: The Servant Disciple (Part 2—cont'd)

Work, whether it is paid or not paid, has intrinsic value. Sadly, in our culture today, the value of work is determined by money. Society places more significance to paid work. We must be careful not to make a distinction between paid and unpaid work, not to put on a pedestal only those works that have remuneration. There are mothers who have decided to forego the pursuit of a career to look after their young children. The work that they do at home in caring for their young children is no less valuable than the work that they can do to earn outside the home.

### B. God ordained work before the fall.

In Genesis 2:15 sin has not yet entered the world when God put Adam in charge of the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it, so the idea that work is the result of the curse is not biblical.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God's instructions and sinned, God cursed the ground and made it harder for Adam to work the surroundings (Genesis 3:17-19). In v. 23, although God sent Adam away from the Garden of Eden, He did not take away the gift of work and Adam remained to be God's co-worker in taking care of creation.

### III. Work is NOT insignificant. It reflects man's honor and dignity accorded by his Creator.

After the fall, God's love for man remained. In Genesis 3:7 and v.21 we see God's compassion and glimpse of Divine redemptive work that is later revealed through Jesus. Furthermore, God removed Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, lest they will live forever in sin (v. 22), but in v. 23, God allowed man to retain the dignity and value of work through his dominion and care of God's creation.

How is the theology of work connected with discipleship? Knowing and understanding the biblical view of work is important in discipleship because we pass on to those whom we disciple how we view work. An unbiblical view of work may take two extremes. One is that work is a curse and therefore something to be avoided. The Bible contains many warnings regarding laziness. Sluggard is the word used to describe a lazy person. A lazy person hates work (Prov. 21:25, Prov. 26:14). Laziness has no place in Christian discipleship!

On the other extreme are those who view work as a means to elevate or extol themselves with prestige in the successful career or the wealth that comes with it. In Deut. 8: 17-18 Moses warns us to remember the Lord God who gives us power to get wealth, so that "He may confirm His covenant that He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."

In both cases, whether we are aware of it or not, we pass on our view of work to those we live with - our siblings, our spouse, our children, or those whom we disciple. That is a scary thought.

To reflect on the Scriptures we studied above, work is good. Elsewhere in the NT, the apostle Paul also wrote that for Christ's followers, it is through their work that they serve Christ. Colossians 3: 23-24 reads: *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

The antidote to work as a "depleting and dispiriting" experience is the recovery of the biblical view of work as intrinsically good, as a gift from God, as grace by which we participate in God's creation work through dominion and care, and as a means by which we serve the Lord.

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please use CCF tithe envelopes (available at usher's table) for ALL tithes, offerings and donations. Our tithe box is located at the usher's table.

*If you're giving via cheque, please write it to CCF Vancouver.*

You can now give ONLINE!! Just go to [www.ccfvancouver.org/give/](http://www.ccfvancouver.org/give/) to donate.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

Call to worship ♦ Praise and worship ♦ Testimony—Stifany Araneta ♦ Children dismissal ♦ Sermon ♦ Communion ♦ Response song ♦ Benediction

## Portrait of Love-driven Obedience: The Dependent Disciple



October 1, 2017 | 10am  
700 Royal Ave. New Westminster

There will be special meeting on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 11:30 am. The Church Nominating Committee will submit the names of nominees to the Board of Directors/Council of Servants for approval/affirmation by the membership. We look forward to your presence and participation. Thank you.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Request/Answered Prayer

Please drop in tithe boxes