
Sermon Text Discussion 6/25/17

Proverbs - "Wisdom at Work" by Drew Hunter

Overview

What does it mean to be a Christian in the work place? What role does work have in God's creation? Proverbs has much to say about what it means to work to the glory of God. By seeking to follow the ways wisdom connects with the workplace, Proverbs shows us:

- 1) The gift of work
- 2) The purposes of work
- 3) The motivation for work

While our work has great meaning and importance in God's kingdom, the New Testament reminds those who follow Christ that their identity is found in him. So, we work hard with joy and excellence because we work to honor Christ.

Quotations

"Is business basically good or evil? Words like 'profit,' 'compensation,' 'money,' and even 'business' carry negative moral connotations for many people today. And some people who work in the business world even labor under a faint cloud of guilt, thinking that their work may be necessary, but that from a moral perspective it is probably 'neutral' at best. Very few people instinctively think of business as morally good in itself... as for the relationship of business to serving God, when people ask how their lives can 'glorify God,' they aren't usually told, 'Go into business.' When students ask, 'How can I serve God with my life?' they don't often hear the answer, 'Go into business.'" -Wayne Grudem, *Business for the Glory of God*

"When we can sell what we make and buy from others who specialize in producing milk or bread, orange juice or blueberries, bicycles or televisions, cars or computers, then, through the mechanism of buying and selling, we can all obtain a much higher standard of living, and thereby fulfill God's purpose that we enjoy the resources of the earth with thanksgiving (1 Tim. 4:3-5; 6:17)." -Wayne Grudem, *Business for the Glory of God*

Understanding & Application

- 1) How can the work you do each day (the manual labor, the cleaning, the Excel spreadsheets, the designing etc.) be a way to glorify God? How is God pleased by the labor you do every day of the week?
- 2) What aspects of your work are essentially good, not morally neutral or evil?
- 3) How is your work a benefit to your employer, your family, your community, and/or the world?
- 4) Explain (using Scripture references) why it is OK to sell something at a profit.
- 5) There can be danger in both an undervaluing and overvaluing of work. One extreme sees work as drudgery that needs to be endured for the sake of more important things in life (church, fun, the weekend). The other extreme makes work into an idol where we find our ultimate meaning and purpose in what we do and how successful we are at it. Which end of the spectrum do you tend to fall? How do you need to be challenged in your skewed view?
- 6) How does (or should) being an adopted son or daughter of God whose identity is in Christ change how you will approach the work God has prepared for you to do tomorrow and in the days to come?