

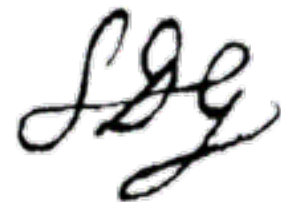
Faith at Work

Following Jesus - Living the Mission

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The Eric Liddell story

Video

- Born in China to missionary parents.
- Died as a missionary in China during Japanese occupation.
- Won gold medal at the 1924 Olympics in Paris.
- Set European record for 400 meters – not beat for 12 years.
- Set British record for 100 yards – not beat for 23 years.

I believe that God made me for a purpose – but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.

Warm Up

- Please share your name and two things about yourself.
- We spend about 1/2 of our waking time working.
- We need to develop a clear theology of work.

Much of this talk is from the sermon “[Called to Work](#)” by Andy Naselli at Bethlehem Baptist Church in 2010.

Faith at Work - Outline

1. What are some popular views of work?
2. What is the Bible's theology of work?
3. Why do I work?
4. How should I think about my work?
5. How should I do my work?
6. What are the BIG IDEAS?

Case studies

Application



1. What are some popular views of work?

- Work is awful and meaningless.



- Work is everything.



- Work is just to pay the bills.



- Secular work < Full-time Christian work.



2. What is the Bible's theology of work?

- Work at creation – Gen 1:27-30

- Name the animals.
- Cultivate the garden.
- Work was not toil. ➡ Work not inherently bad.



- Work under the curse – Gen 3:17-19

- Sin makes it harder.
- The earth itself is cursed (Rom 8:19-22). ➡ Work becomes unpleasant
- Work now is painful. Now is toil.

- Work under Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)

➡ Christ gives meaning to work

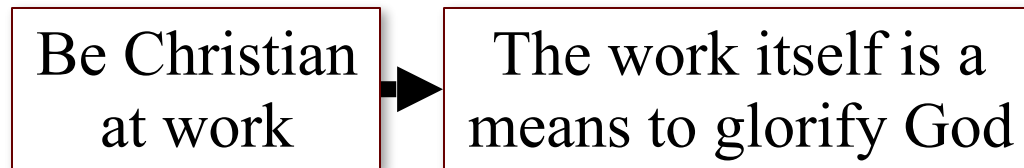
- Work in heaven

- God will reverse the effects of the fall. God worked, Jesus worked on earth, the angels work, we will be serving Him in the new heaven ... will we be working?

3. Why do I work?

I work to Glorify God by ...

- Providing for my own needs.
- Providing for the needs of our family (1 Tim 5:8)
- Serving others.
- Supporting our pastors and missionaries (if everyone ...)
- Giving to those in need (Proverbs 31 woman, Eph 4:28)
- Doing good for humanity (common grace).
“Communities should love having Christians there.”
- Having meaningful lives (Eccl 3:12-13).
- Reflecting Christ before non-Christians and sharing Christ.



4. How should I think about my work?

- Hate sin and its effects – but not work itself.
- Distinguish between wholesome work and sinful work.
- Do work with integrity that honors Christ.
- View work as stewardship (Mark 10:45).
- View work as worship.
- Do not idolize work (1 John 2:17-17).
- Do not view secular work as less spiritual than full-time Christian work. We are all called to be full-time Christians.
- Do not show partiality (James 2:1-7).
- View blue-collar and white-collar work as equally important.
- Value unpaid work.
- Reject the retirement mindset. John Piper (Mt 16:24-26)

“If God called you to be a pastor, don’t lower yourself to go into business ... If God called you into business, don’t lower yourself to become a pastor.”

5. How should I do my work?

- Work heartily as for the Lord – not for others (Eph 6:5-8).
- Work hard – but don't be lazy (Prov 6:6-11; 10:4-5).
- Work hard – but don't overwork (Mark 6:31).
- Work productivity (Prov 12:11; Eph 5:15).
- Be creative and ambitious – but not greedy (1 Tim 6:6-10).
- Fellowship with other believers (Heb 3:13).
- Witness for Christ (Mt 28:18-20).

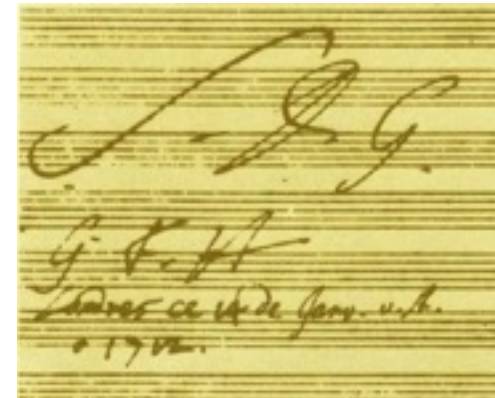
2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

6. What are the BIG IDEAS?

- Would you still work if you received \$1 billion?
- Work is 1/2 of our waking hours.
- God gives meaning and purpose to work.
- Our work is service and worship.
- Work is noble and has dignity.
- We work for Christ – not for man.
- Our work gives us an opportunity to reflect Christ and to witness for Him.
- Most people lack the skills to do that.
- The church should equip the believers for the work of service.

Colossians 3:23-24 *Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*

Bach signed “SDG”
Soli Deo Gloria
Glory to God alone



Case studies

Spend the next 15 minutes ...

- Find a discussion partner.
- Randomly select ONE of the cases in the case booklet.
- Read quietly.
- Discuss.
- Be prepared to share your big ideas from the case.



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Application

Find ONE application from our session today ... and be prepared to share it with our group.

My application today:

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Business as mission bibliography:

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Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization/Business as Mission:

https://www.lausanne.org/docs/2004forum/LOP59_IG30.pdf

The Business as Mission Manifesto

BACKGROUND

The Lausanne (LCWE) 2004 Forum Business as Mission Issue Group worked for a year, addressing issues relating to God's purposes for work and business, the role of business people in church and missions, the needs of the world and the potential response of business. The group consisted of more than 70 people from all continents. Most came from a business background but there were also church and mission leaders, educators, theologians, lawyers and researchers. The collaboration process included 60 papers, 25 cases studies, several national and regional business as mission consultations and email-based discussions, culminating in a week of face to face dialogue and work. These are some of our observations.

AFFIRMATIONS

- We believe that God has created all men & women in His image with the ability to be creative, creating good things for themselves and for others - this includes business.
- We believe in following in the footsteps of Jesus, who constantly and consistently met the needs of the people He encountered, thus demonstrating the love of God and the rule of His kingdom.
- We believe that the Holy Spirit empowers all members of the Body of Christ to serve, to meet the real spiritual and physical needs of others, demonstrating the kingdom of God.
- We believe that God has called and equipped business people to make a Kingdom difference in and through their businesses.
- We believe that the gospel has the power to transform individuals, communities and societies. Christians in business should therefore be a part of this holistic transformation through business.
- We recognise the fact that poverty and unemployment are often rampant in areas where the name of Jesus is rarely heard and understood.
- We recognise both the dire need for and the importance of business development. However it is more than just business per se. Business as mission is about business with a Kingdom of God perspective, purpose and impact.
- We recognise that there is a need for job creation and for multiplication of businesses all over the world, aiming at the quadruple bottom line: spiritual, economical, social and environmental transformation.
- We recognise the fact that the church has a huge and largely untapped resource in the Christian business community to meet needs of the world – in and through business - and bring glory to God in the market place and beyond.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We call upon the Church world wide to identify, affirm, pray for, commission and release business people and entrepreneurs to exercise their gifts and calling as business people in the world – among all peoples and to the ends of the earth.

We call upon business people globally to receive this affirmation and to consider how their gifts and experience might be used to help meet the world's most pressing spiritual and physical needs through Business as mission.

CONCLUSION

The real bottom line of business as mission is AMDG - ad maiorem Dei gloriam – for the greater glory of God.

Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, Business as Mission Issue Group, October 2004