

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups July 16th 2006

Live a new life! – Work! Ephesians 6:5-9



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

Ephesians 4 to 6 describes life in the Spirit..." Live a life worthy of the calling you have received" (Eph 4:1) However we live complex lives, playing many different roles and our lives are made up of many parts. The challenge of this week is to consider how we might have true "integrity" and "sincerity of heart" (6:5) and live an undivided life...not a life where we are a different person at work, with different standards and behaviours, but a life of true integrity..."*The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity*" Proverbs 11:3

The Bible makes no distinction between so called sacred and secular work, nor paid or unpaid work. Rather, we like our master are at work serving God whatever we do (Col 3:23) and we reflect God's own activity in work (See John 5:17)

Furthermore there is a sense in which by serving God with integrity through our work we are part of God's own "Redeeming work" as we bringing wholeness back to the toil of work, as the hardship and need of work is part of God's judgement on sin (See Genesis 4:17-19)

Can God be in the workplace?...Are we allowing God to be as much part of our work life ...as other parts of our lives?



Ephesians 4 to 6 brings to life some important principles regarding work.... We are to see work as part of service and worship (6v7), a means of provision and sharing (4:28), a means of contact and mission (5v15-16). We are to conduct ourselves at work with diligence and excellence (v7), have respect for our bosses (6v5) and if we are in a position of leadership we are to remember who the real boss is !! (6v9)



Witness: Questions to discuss

Introduction: "So what do you do?" Our society places so much status and evidence of who we are... by what we "do"! Furthermore it seems to be more what we do, rather than how we do it! How do you experience this, and how do feel about it?

- Do we feel like we are a "different person" at work? Can it be a case of double life...double standards? Why is this? Do we feel threatened by our work place?
- How can we invite God into our work place? Can we share experiences of how we have found a sense of "Serving God wholeheartedly" through our work place? How can we leave our mark...without being offensive?
- The so called "Protestant ethic" arises out of verse 6:7. Can we share experiences of how being a Christian has made a difference to how we approach work and/or does there come a time when we take this too far...and become slaves to work?
- Bosses!! We are called to respect our bosses...but also know who the real boss is! How do we deal with this? Do we sometimes fail to stand for integrity and righteousness in the work place for fear of our earthly bosses?
- What makes a good boss? How can we apply the principles in verse 9-10 to being a servant Christian leader in our work situation?
- Work/Life balance...Are we making life work or are we making work life? What can Proverbs 23:4 teach us about this?