

Weekly WorkPlace Wisdom

A Weekly Service To The Business Community From Saddleback Church

THE WORTH OF YOUR WORK

By Rick Warren

This year our government will pay out over \$2000,000,000,000 (*that's billion!*) in support of people who are not working. Many of those receiving support **would rather be working**. They can't find a job they are skilled for. Others **cannot work** due to illness or disability. But there are also people receiving payments who simply **don't want to work**. Their rationale is: *Why work when you can stay in bed and collect government support?*

Have you ever stopped to think **WHY** you work? You may think the answer is obvious: To put food on my table! But your work is worth *far more* than that. Work is part of God's plan and purpose for your life. If you understand the worth of your work, you will receive many more benefits from it than just financial gain.

You were designed by god to do some type of work. God works...and he created you in his image...so he intends for work to be a part of your life. Even in paradise (the Garden of Eden) God had a job for Adam. (By the way, contrary to popular opinion, the oldest profession is *landscaping!*) So what is the value of my work?

1. **WORK ALLOWS ME TO EXPRESS MY CREATIVITY.** (Gen 1:26-28)
It gives me an opportunity to use the talents God has given me.
2. **WORK DEVELOPS MY COMPETENCE.** (Eccl. 10:10)
It provides me with a place to learn new skills and sharpen old ones.
3. **WORK BUILDS MY CHARACTER** (Luke 16:10-12)
As I work, I develop character qualities and values that I might not otherwise have the change to develop. Qualities like integrity, fairness, *loyalty, patience, forgiveness, cheerfulness, punctuality, enthusiasm.*
4. **WORK GIVES ME CONFIDENCE** (Prov 22:29)
When I work, I gain a sense of self-respect, honor, and dignity that results from legitimate work. When I complete a task, there is a sense of accomplishments, the satisfaction of a job well-done, that cannot be gained any other way. I know I'm not just leeching off the world.
5. **WORK ALLOWS ME TO BE CHARITABLE** (Eph 4:28)
It enables me to help others less fortunate with the profit I've made.

Here's the bottom line:

THE MOST IMPORATNT THING YOU BRING HOME FROM WORK IS NOT YOUR PAYCHECK – BUT THE DIFFERENCES YOUR WORK HAS MADE IN YOU!

Until next week...

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you see your work as a calling from God?
2. What can you do this week in your work that will glorify God?
3. What character qualities would you like to build on and which ones do you want to change?

