



CELL GUIDE 2016

Theme	Living in the Kingdom of God
Topic	Is My Work My Ministry?
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Message Summary

My Work My Ministry

The place where we spend most of our time interacting with pre-believers is our workplace. Our identity is very much tied up with the work that we do, thus it is important that we find meaning and fulfillment in it. In this sermon, Ps Benny Ho shared with us six biblical perspectives in which we should view our work so that we may find joy and purpose in it rather than just viewing it merely as a means for survival.

Biblical Perspectives Towards Our Work

1. Work as Sustenance

A common response to “Why do you work?” is that we do it for a living. This answer is true as a statement of outcome, but not necessarily as a statement of purpose. Our work should not be seen as just a transaction where we work solely for a paycheck at the end of each month. It should be about providing for our family the way God provides for us, regardless of the circumstances we are in (**2 Thess 3:10-12, Eph 4:28, 1 Tim 5:8**). We should stay focused on things eternal rather than temporal (**2 Cor 4:18**), recognising that God has placed us in that place, not for earthly gains, but for His eternal purpose, which is to bring His presence into the lives of our superiors and colleagues.

2. Work as Scriptural Command

Gen 2:15 tells us that work existed before the entrance of sin into this world. Our work is a command from God for men’s good (**Exo 34:21**), thus we should approach it with a spirit of excellence, as God deserves our very best. Even God Himself worked for six days and rested on the seventh day (**Gen 2:2-3**). It was only after sin came that work became tedious and degenerated into toil (**Gen 3:17-19**). However, God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins as part of His redemption and that restored everything. As long as we are in Christ, our work should bring us pleasure as it was before sin came.

3. Work as Satisfaction

Recognise that our work is a gift from God and we should use it to enhance His image in us. When we allow God to be involved in our work, we should feel a sense of fulfilment and true satisfaction that cannot be established without His presence (**Ecc 2:24-25**). The key is finding God’s pleasure in our work by doing it with the right attitude. Only then will we find true satisfaction and pleasure of the Lord.

4. Work as Sanctification

According to **Rom 8:28-29**, God’s ultimate purpose is for us to be transformed into Christlikeness, and it is in our work situations where God really moulds and transform us by putting our character to the test (**Prov 27:17**). Hence, when we are faced with difficult situations, face the problems rather than avoid them as it could be God dealing with us. Our work is therefore a means to our own sanctification.

5. Work as Service or Ministry

Matt 5:13-14 tells us that we need to be the salt and light of the world and function where pre-believers are i.e. the marketplaces of the world. Therefore, our work is the perfect platform for service and ministry. No matter our vocations, we all share one common ministry that God has given to us – the ministry of



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reconciliation (**2 Cor 5:18-20**). The only difference is that we are called to play different roles and functions. Some people are called to be equippers (pastors, preachers, etc.) to equip the saints (the rest of us are in the marketplace) so that we can be effective witnesses for the Lord who is our ultimate Provider.

6. Work as Societal Transformation

God has planted us into the different arenas of our society as signposts to point people to the Kingdom of God. Although Christ has redeemed these arenas by dying on the cross, it is our job to reclaim them for the Lord. Therefore, the arenas become our mission field with a much bigger purpose of transforming society. There is also a unique group of people whom we should minister to – the poor and needy; the disadvantaged and marginalised. The corporate world has begun to touch the lives of these people through initiatives such as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). If we can inspire even the pre-believers in the corporate world to join us in ministering to these people, we will be able to bring transformation to all the different arenas of the society.

Pointers to Relook Our Work

If our work is our ministry, we should:

1. **Embrace Our Calling to be a Marketplace Minister:** The fact that God gave us work is already a blessing. Thus, resolve to carry out the ministry of reconciliation wherever God has placed us and be the agent for change in our workplace.
2. **Enthroned God as the Head of Our Workplace:** We are representatives of Christ in our workplace, the carrier of His presence. Hence, bring in His presence and declare the Trinity as the head of our corporation.
3. **Erect a Symbolic Altar in Our Workplace:** Designate an area where we can go to for God's counsel. Seek His wisdom and guidance for better decision-making and let Him be involved in our work by prayers.
4. **Engage the Lord Jesus Christ in Our Work:** God is interested in our work, no matter what our jobs are. Hence, we should be intentional in bringing God into our work.

Conclusion

God has called us into different vocations for His eternal purpose so that He can demonstrate His power in the marketplaces of the world. Therefore, bring His presence into our workplace and help the pre-believers reconcile with God. Let our work be an act of worship unto the Lord so that we can be the shining light for His glory!

Questions

1) What are the 6 biblical perspectives in which we should view our work? Which of these, if any, do you currently practise?

(Fill In Answer Here)



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2) How difficult or easy is it for you to seek out other Christians in your workplace so as to build fellowship with them? Why is it important to do so and what is the possible impact of a workplace Christian fellowship?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3) Share some difficulties that you are facing at work and what you are doing to deal with them. Now that you have a better understanding of the purpose of work, how would you tackle these challenges? How will you also embrace work as ministry?

(Fill In Answer Here)