

Redeeming Work
Don't Change Where You Work But How You Work, Part 2
I Peter 2:9-25

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / November 12, 2017

I. Working for King Jesus Sets You Free to Worship God Through Your Work – Instead of Trying to Fulfill Yourself

To worship God means to give God honor by obeying God in every task you perform knowing that when you do it with all your heart, you're pleasing God.

Your goal in that job is to make much of Him instead of trying to see how much money, power or fame you can pile up for yourself.

Look at how Peter reorients our thinking in **ch. 2, v. 9**.

He uses the same phrase Paul did in **Titus ch. 2** when he calls us "... His own special people."

A. You've Been Called to Christ More than You've Been Called to Any Particular Job or Field of Service

There are at least 51 uses of the word 'calling' in the N.T, and 46 of them refer to becoming a Christian not choosing a vocation.

Your primary calling is to know Jesus Christ. And when you're doing that, you can head into the workplace and glorify Him in any number of different jobs!

Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."

B. You Don't Have to Love What You Do to Worship God in the Way You Do It

You can do great work, not because you love what you do, but because you love who you do it for. You don't have to love what you do for a living to be able to love Jesus and others through it.

Passion often follows mastery of job. That only comes through time as you stick with something and look for better ways to do it.

Stop getting so worked up about what you want to do for a living, and fall in love more deeply with who you want to live for as you do it, because your calling is to Jesus Christ more than it is to any particular vocation.

II. Working for King Jesus Sets You Free to Serve Others – Instead of Just Promoting Yourself

I Peter 2:15 "... that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."

The Greek word for 'doing good' has an intentional and pointed reference to benefiting others.

- **v. 12** – talks about your ‘good works’
- **v. 14** – talks about those who ‘do good’
- **v. 15** – talks about ‘doing good’
- **v. 20** – talks about when you ‘do good’ and suffer for it

Stop thinking about what you do, and think about the people around you as you do it.

III. Working for King Jesus Sets You Free to Trust God – Regardless of How You’re Being Treated at Work

Look at how **v. 18** and **19** are talking about what is happening out there in the workplace today!

Look at the second half of **v. 20**.

All of our conduct as servants or workers in the workplace, even when we’re mistreated, is tied to Christ’s example of how He worked for us on the cross.

I Peter 2:21 “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow in His steps”

In **v. 23**, Peter tells us how to respond to workplace abuse by giving us two things Jesus did not do and one thing He never stopped doing.

#1 – When He was reviled, He did not revile in return.

#2 – When He suffered, He did not threaten.

- He committed Himself to Him who judges righteously

You will have to keep on entrusting yourself to Him who judges righteously, saying, “God, I know You know... You see... and you’re going to make all things right. In the meantime I will trust You.”

IV. Working for King Jesus Sets You Free to Rest in His Care – Knowing that Your Shepherd Loves You Even If Your Superiors at Work Don’t

Look at **v. 25** again.

You don’t need those people at work to care for you. You can go ready to love, expecting nothing in return, because you’ve got a Shepherd who goes with you into that workplace.

Workplace freedom is the result of a much greater freedom that you experienced when you put your trust in Jesus, who died for you to solve your biggest problem, which is not a workplace problem but your sin problem that separates you from a holy God.

I Peter 2:24 “Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed.”