

Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline

July 31 2016 (John Robertson)

For the Life of the World - Economy of Creative Service

What is our work for?

How do you feel about your work?

Many people associate work with toil – hard work that we almost begrudgingly have to go through. This is unfortunate because work is an integral part of our identity and our purpose and our well being. As we shape our work around God's design and God's plan we find fulfilment and purpose and life.

What is work?

Work is the stewardship of resources, human and material to the glory of God and the benefit of humankind.

The purpose of work extends beyond simple material provision for us and our immediate family:

- We work so that we can give to those who don't have.
- We work to serve others and to improve life for the community as a whole.
- We work to develop gifts and skills, to express ourselves through the tasks we do, to gain the satisfaction of a job well done, to rejoice in our God-given abilities.

God's Design

Humanity is designed for work - this work is clearly given as a blessing (Genesis 1:28; Genesis 2:15)

Work is not a consequence of the fall but part of the original plan. We were always meant to work - and work was intended as a source of satisfaction and pleasure.

After The Fall

When humanity rebelled against God the character of work changed (Genesis 3:19).

The command to work is maintained even if the way the work is done is radically altered.

Work is both necessary and good. God doesn't take the Christian out of the world; rather, He transforms all aspects of life in the world - including work.

Work becomes one of the ways in which humanity serves God and through which God enriches us both personally and each other. Work becomes a component of our worship.

Your value is not in what you do but it is in part how you do it.

In God's economy it's not about what you earn or necessarily what you do but how you do it (Colossians 3:23-24).

Relationships are a Reward of Work

A reward of your work is your interconnectedness with others.

This is a part of God's plan to take us to settings and people and places that we wouldn't normally go to or meet with (Philippians 2:3-4).

Making changes in our lives to see work become a blessing for the life of the world involves us being:

Generous Contributors

Shifting From Consumer to Contributor

How much of your life would change if you were looking at how you can give rather than what you can get?

Shifting From Protecting to Being Generous Providers

We reflect the very heart of God when we give when we learn to be generous and provide rather than protect. We are made like God to create, to bless, to give, and we so easily get caught up in consuming and accumulating, guarding it as mine. How might you embrace the generous provider role more in your life?

Selfless Participants

Shifting From Payments to Participation

Instead of seeing what we do as just a task we can start to shift to see what we do as an exchange of ideas in collaboration with others who benefit from our unique contribution and creativity.

You have the choice to be either just making a payment or being a participant in the chain of exchange for the blessing for the life of the world.

Shifting From Selfish to Selfless

More care and concern for those around us, more care about justice and doing something to make a difference.

Blessing Others

Shifting From Blessed to Blessing

There is no doubt God wants to bless His people, it's in God's nature to bless and give and pour out to His family. We are blessed to be a blessing – pass it on.

Shifting to a mindset that looks to see where God is at work and partner with Him to bring into reality heaven on earth through being generous contributors, selfless participants, and a blessing to others.

1 Corinthians 3:9 says; “For we are God's fellow workers” (ESV). The more we pursue this reality and live this out every day, the more it transforms our lives, our homes, our communities our city and even our eternity.