

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Faith & Work ④

INTRODUCTION | Compatibility of love and work: is it possible to work lovingly?

Most of the time, we say that “work” and “love” are not compatible. “Work doesn’t need love!” Are you sure? Let’s have a look at what the Bible says about the importance of love and faith at work. First, to work is to serve. Secondly, work is a call from God, we will clarify this biblical vocation. Thirdly, there is a link between love and work, love is important at work and even indispensable.

We have 3 key words here: service, call, and love.

SCRIPTURE | Ephesians 6:5-9

5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. 9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

QUESTIONS |

- 1: What does this passage teach about the behavior (work) of both slave and servant should have? Discuss about common points and differences.
- 2: In verse 9, masters are taught to “treat their slaves in the same way”. What does it mean? I think the slave-master relationship corresponds to our current employee-boss relationship. How should we treat each other? How should we work together?
- 3: According to 1 Corinthians 7, every job is a calling from God. How does it encourage you, especially, when your job is not going well? (reference: 1 Corinthians 7:17, 20-21)
- 4: If you accept work as calling from God, decide to serve for God’s glory and work for the people around you and for the world, what kind of job should you choose?
- 5: As the slave serves the master, what are the reasons why the master should treat the slave the same way? How does it influence your way of working?
- 6: A slave has to serve his master; a master has to serve his slave. Both precepts cannot be accomplished without love. How can you work in a loving manner?

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

REFERENCES |

1 Corinthians 7:17, 20-21

17 Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

20 Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

21 Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so.

PRAYER |

- God gave us a call for work. We can be thankful for being able to serve our neighbors, the world, and for God's glory. Even the meaning of work changes when you know about Jesus' love. It gives us the strength to work with joy, with a new attitude.
- If you love love and work only for yourself, you might feel more pride and superiority, or on the contrary, more self-hate or inferiority than you should. Check your attitude and feelings towards your job and repent.

UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

Lunch time meeting (6/2, Otemachi)

Obento project (4)

Worship & fellowship (5, Faith and Work ⑤ "Troubles at work")

Grace City gospel (6)

Lunch time meeting (7, Akasaka; 8, Kasumigaseki; 9 Otemachi)

Worship & fellowship (12 "Crucified")