



17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

Two Questions we need to address:

- Are we willing to change?
- Are you willing to let God lead?

20 To enjoy your work and to accept your lot in life—that is indeed a gift from God.... Ecclesiastes 5:20 (TLB)

22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord.

23 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

24 Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ. Colossians 3:22-24 (NLT)

A quick theology of Work:

■ Work is a blessing not a curse.

Work is built into our purpose.

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Genesis 2:15 (NIV)

Genesis 3:17-19 (TLB)

Work is built into our image.

17 But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I." John 5:17 (NLT)

■ Every Job stinks.

23 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Colossians 3:23 (NLT)

Work gives you an opportunity to honor God.

■ Christians don't have jobs, we have ministry assignments.

19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 (NLT)
God didn't create you to just exist, but to make a difference.

What's involved in being a special agent:

■ The quality of my work.

The quality of each person's work will be seen when the Day of Christ exposes it. For on that Day fire will reveal everyone's work; the fire will test it and show its real quality. 1 Corinthians 3:13 (TEV)

11 ...make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you,

12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 (NIV)

■ The condition of my attitude.

Stay away from complaining and arguing so that no one can speak a word of blame against you. Shine out among them like beacon lights, holding out to them the Word of Life. Philippians 2:14-16 (TLB)

■ The way I treat people.

7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7 (NIV)

35 This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other." John 13:35 (MSG)

Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

■ The message I communicate.

5 Use your heads as you live and work among outsiders. Don't miss a trick. Make the most of every opportunity.

6 Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out. Colossians 4:5-6 (MSG)

19 Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this—that I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

Matthew 28:19-20 (TLB)

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What spoke most to you from the talk on Sunday?
- What was your first real job? What job did you hate the most and which job have you loved the most?
- If you could change one thing about your current job what would it be?
- Is it difficult for you to see work as a blessing? Explain. How can we change that?
- How does work give us an opportunity to honor God? (Read Colossians 3:23)
- Do you feel that your job is a ministry assignment from God? What does that mean to you?
- Talk about the sub-points under "What's involved in being a special agent". How do these points help us in what God has called us to do at work?
- Which of these points makes the greatest impact on others? Which of these is most difficult for you?
- What is one thing God has put on your heart to do at work, as a special agent?

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