



## VALUES?

### "Values in the Workplace—Work Ethic" Proverbs 6:6-11

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Stuart Briscoe

Most people spend approximately half their waking hours working. What they believe about work, or their "work ethic," will therefore profoundly affect the quality of their lives.

#### I. Industry—The Biblical Work Ethic.

- A. The example—the ant. 6:6-7
  - 1. Consider its ways.
  - 2. Apply its values.
- B. The explanation—the scriptures.
  - 1. The creative work of God.
  - 2. The mandated work of humanity. Genesis 2
  - 3. The destructive work of the fall. Genesis 3
  - 4. The redemptive work of Christ.
- C. The experience—the purpose.
  - 1. Functioning as the divine image. Genesis 1:26-27
    - a. Exercising dominion.
    - b. Exercising divine giftedness.
  - 2. Functioning as a servant. John 13:15-16
    - a. The appreciation of human need.
    - b. The application of abilities to meet it.
  - 3. Functioning as a witness. Matthew 5:14-16
  - 4. Functioning as a co-worker. Genesis 2:15; 2 Corinthians 6:1
  - 5. Functioning as a worshipper. Colossians 3:17
  - 6. Functioning as a provider.
    - a. For family. 2 Timothy 2:6; 1 Timothy 5:8
    - b. For needy. Ephesians 4:28
    - c. For ministry. 2 Corinthians 8-9

#### II. Idolatry—The Confused Work Ethic.

- A. Work becomes addictive. Ecclesiastes 2:17f
  - 1. Labor is an idol.
  - 2. Money, status, prestige are gods.
  - 3. Family, leisure, worship, service suffer.

#### III. Indolence—The Abused Work Ethic.

- A. The conduct of the indolent.
  - 1. Procrastination—"When will you...?" 6:9
  - 2. Relaxation—"A little sleep..." 6:10
  - 3. Rationalization—"A lion in the road." 26:13, 16
  - 4. Motivation—"Too lazy..." 26:14-15
- B. The consequences of idleness.
  - 1. Poverty and scarcity. 6:11

**Points to Ponder:** "Some people worship at their work, work at their play, and play at their worship." What's the right way?