

Why do you work?

What does it mean to work?

What type of work do you see yourself doing when you're older?

Why will you do this work?

Work vs Toil

Work:

- Is a sustained effort for a purpose
- Makes a difference in the world
- Has values that goes beyond production
- A human right that allows for participation
- An expressions of our creativity

Toil:

- When work is viewed as a chore
- Seen as a necessary, but not enjoyable reality
- It is difficult, challenging and wearing
- According to Genesis “toil” is a consequence of our separation from God

According to a 1999 pastoral letter, *Everyday Christianity*, there are four aspects of work:

- Supporting our families
- Realizing our dignity
- Promoting the common good
- Participating in God's creation

Supporting our families

- Our work is our livelihood – it provides basic necessities of life
- Income must enable a family to maintain a home, food, clothing
- If a family remains “in need” despite one or both adults working, then work is not achieving its fundamental purpose

Realizing our Dignity

- Work must allow us to grow as people by learning and putting talents to use
 - Work not only transforms us, but the world around us
 - Humans can achieve fulfillment as human beings
 - Work is the primary way in which God calls us to be fully human
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Promoting the Common Good

- To work is to be part of a larger society; therefore, it is directly linked to the common good
- Work is a means to provide goodness and usefulness to others
- Work becomes a form of service to others

Participating in God's Creation

- The story of creation in Genesis tells us that work is central to our human nature
- We are invited to share in God's on-going creation through our creative work (to cultivate and to care)
- Through human labour we are unfolding God's work

What does "good work" look like?

Where or why has it become difficult to maintain the notion of "good work"?

If work reflected a Christian worldview:

- Wages would sufficiently support families
- Regardless of ethnicity, gender or personal beliefs, there would be a fair opportunity for career advancement
- All health and safety guidelines for respective industries would be carefully followed
- Workers would receive medical and retirement benefits
- Continual education and training would be part of the work
- Joining a union or organizing an association would be encouraged to protect and promote worker's rights and privileges
- Employer's would seek input from employees regarding workplace demands and impact on personal life
- The work would benefit others

Which of these statements seem most important to you and your future work?

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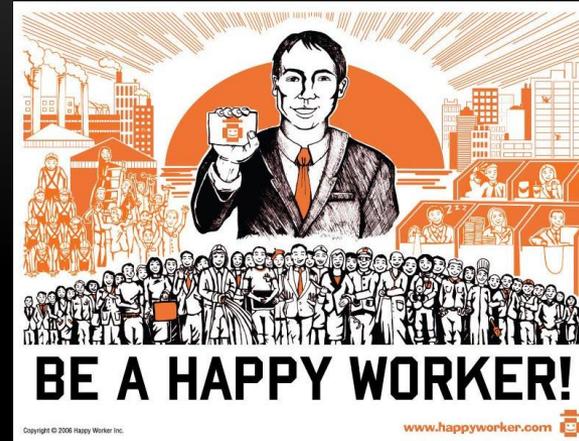
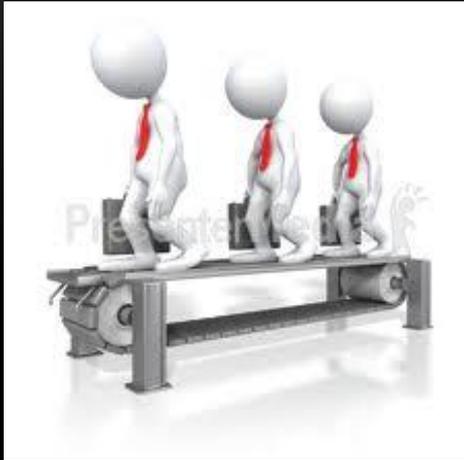
When good work is denied...

- Workers are treated like machines – they are seen as tools rather than persons
- Work becomes a means to an end (a way of producing goods and services)
- Work becomes dehumanizing
- Value is measured in terms of usefulness and production
- Allows for exploitation of age and abilities
- Unemployment rises – which may mean the difference between survival and starvation and/or personal dignity.
- Eventually unemployment can lead to alcohol abuse, domestic violence and divorce

Parable About Work

- In Matthew 20: 1-7, 11-15 Jesus tells a parable where all workers are paid the same daily wage regardless of when they started their work day
- How does Jesus respond to the disgruntled worker who feels that he has been wronged?
- Jesus explains that the worker has not been wronged because he agreed to the daily wage. He explains that an employer is free to be generous with his workers; therefore, other workers should not become envious
- How do you think this would play out in today's work place?

Subjective work = what the worker experiences



Objective work = what the worker produces



Solidarity in Work

When we approach work with love it can transform the world:

By enduring the toil of work in union with Christ crucified for us, humanity in a way collaborate with the son of God for the redemption of humanity. Human's who themselves as true disciples of Christ by carrying the cross in our turn every day in the activity that we are called up to perform. (On Human Work, 27)

Indirect Employers

- An indirect employer is identified as any policy making institution that helps to regulate what employers may or may not do
- Examples include:
 - ✓ A labour union
 - ✓ Government
 - ✓ Worldwide organization (United Nations)

How do we transform the experience of work?

Political Activism:

- Voting
- Working with groups such as “free the children”
- Public demonstrations
- Letter writing campaigns

Purchasing Power:

- Boycotts (1960’s seventeen millions Americans boycotted grapes)
- *a note on Boycotts, a successful boycott does not aim to end a business, but rather force/encourage a business to alter and improve their labour practices
- High Schools, Colleges and Universities receive income from sales of branded clothing/uniforms. Student can push for fair labour practices in the manufacturing of these garments

Globalization

Where the economies of the world are recognized as increasingly tied together by interdependent relationships

The result is working conditions in one country are often influenced by business practices in another country

What do you see as strengths of Globalization?

What do you see as weakness of Globalization?
