

1. Work

Principle –Contributing to society by doing “work” is part of a responsible Christian life in this fallen world, whether it is paid for or not.

Key Scripture:

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, **he shall not eat.**"

1 Timothy 5:8 If anyone **does** not **provide for** his relatives, and especially for his **immediate family**, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do it all** for the glory of God.

Matthew 6:31-33 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But **seek first** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Comment

Scripture is clear about a man's obligation to “work” – and if he is the head of a household there is the added obligation to provide for all those in that household. (There is parallel Scripture indicating that there is also work for the ladies, the nature of it partly depending on marital status). Work is however to be kept in perspective. It is to be done in a way that glorifies God. Work is an obligation before God, but so too is the obligation to make furthering God's kingdom and acting righteously to be a priority in our life. If we keep our priorities right, it is God, rather than our work, who promises to see that our basic needs for food and clothing are met.

Application in daily life??

- ♦ Whether we are paid or not, it is a principle of Scripture that we are to contribute what we can to the family and community around us. Why should we expect others to keep us?
- ♦ The “work” we do must still be able to be done in a way that glorifies God or it probably isn't the sort of work God wants us involved with. (For example, being a sex-worker is legitimate work in today's society but it cannot possibly glorify God).
- ♦ Our work is not to become the god of our lives – God promises to provide the essentials of life if we seek to put the things of the kingdom first in our lives.

Our example? Do our lives reflect the obligation we have to contribute to the well-being of those around us, whether we are paid or not for doing so?