

Lesson 1: Vocation and a Serious Mindset

Introduction

For our first class in practical theology, we will discuss *work*—not as having a *job*, but of fulfilling a *vocation*.

Definition – a *vocation* is a divine calling on your life (Lat. *voco* – “to call”)

Outward – your position in life (God’s designation)

Inward – your nature or “bent” (God’s design)

Inward Vocation

Secular education often has career surveys in ninth grade, but a vocation goes deeper than an occupation (a job).

What is the difference between a *vocation* and an *occupation*?

Vocation – a calling from God to *be* something or *do* something (e.g. Jer. 1:4-10, esp. vv. 5, 10)

Occupation = what occupies your time (what you choose to do as your job)

Within a single vocation, a person may have several occupations over time:

Illus. College student switched from doctor to pastor

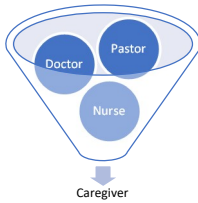
Engineer became neurosurgeon

E.g. What are occupations for a caregiver?

Doctor Nurse

Counselor Hospice

Daycare Veterinarian



A vocation is more general than an occupation:

e.g. Grower, Builder, Leader, Teacher, Rescuer, Coach, Burden-Reliever, Analyst

A vocation is more of a discovery than a choice—deeper satisfaction than doing something to be happy:

Test: What did you do as a fourth-grader?

Test: What would you do with a Garden of Eden and no budget?

Note: Regeneration does not change our inward “bent”, just its motivation, manner, and goal.

“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Mt. 4:19; cf. Moses, David – Ps. 78:70-72).

A clever designer may be a computer engineer or a computer hacker.

Outward Vocation

Bible Study: **Titus 2:1-10** – *What are three of the outward distinctions God makes among people?*

Social Status – Master vs. Slave

In our culture, “work” has moved almost completely out of the home, but “work” is larger than a “job.”

Our employee status has more freedom than a slave, but still must submit *if we wish to retain our job*.

Age – Old vs. Young

The division between “old” and “young” is in raising a family (cf. 1 Tim. 5:10 – parent vs. grandparent).

Today, although having less children, we often delay marriage and are still raising children in our fifties.

What are the responsibilities of the old and the young?

E.g. Grandparents should set an example and “soberize” the parents (Titus 2:2-4, 7).

Gender – Men vs. Women

What are the responsibilities of the young women?

Personal character development, a family-focus, and home-centered work (cf. Pr. 31:10-31).

Beware of neglecting the family for personal career development!

What are the responsibilities of the young men?

One Thing: “self-controlled” (v. 6) – to be reasonable, serious, and sane—in your right mind

Opposite: to be insane, crazy, out of your mind (e.g. the demoniac – Mk. 5:15)

Beware! Our culture urges young men to play, to be extreme, and to take unnecessary risks.

Result: 16 to 26-year-old “adolescents” – a boy in a man’s boy

No! You *need* to work: “It is good for a man that he should bear the yoke in his youth” (Lam. 3:27).

To be ready for a family, you must *first* prepare your work (Pr. 24:27).

“Likewise” (v. 6) implies that all young people need to get serious about life and be ready to raise a family.

Illus. Josiah – became king (age 8), sought God (age 16), rid the land of idols (age 20) (see 2 Chr. 34).

Illus. Poem: “Early Piety”

Importance – Fulfilling our roles is necessary for protecting and promoting the gospel, and permeating society.