

THE MEANING OF WORK

INTRODUCTION

Modules 1–3 gave us the basic framework for a biblical worldview, and Module 4 demonstrated how our relationships should and can be reconciling, based on the reconciling work of God. We are ready, now, to look more deeply at what is usually the most demanding, the most fascinating, the most frustrating aspect of our lives...namely, our work...an arena that is full of relationships.

Stop and think:

- What does work mean, to you?
- What is the “best” kind of work?
- Why is work such a mixture of frustration and challenge?
- What happens to most people when they work?

Sampling these questions reminds us that work is an inescapable focus of our lives. What we do...and how we do it...is profoundly influential. Therefore, we must align ourselves with what God wants us to be and to do and to experience in our work. As we saw in Module 3, we are citizens of an eternal Kingdom which is present today, here and now, and which defines our purpose.

We will start with a fresh look at where work came from—God’s original intent and the damage done by the Fall. This will help us grapple with our daily circumstances in the marketplace. What is it that we are supposed to be doing? Why and for whom?

Then, we will look at issues such as focus and fulfillment. Is work different from ministry? From employment? From mere activity? And what is the place of leisure? We will find that the working out of the Kingdom in the marketplace is radical and counter-cultural.

As business people, we need to be productive. What is the connection, then, between what we do and what God does? Is there any solution to the pressures of deadlines and the dominance of the bottom line?

As we move through this module, we will equip ourselves to live and function well in the marketplace, in ways that are authentic and pleasing to God.