



# INGman 7

## Your Work Matters To God

"For it is God Who is at work..." Phil 2:13

A man walked past a busy construction site and asked the brick layers, "What are you building?" The 1st

said, "Who knows. I'm just stacking these bricks and doing what I'm told." The 2nd answered, "I'm building a wall, but I'm not sure why or what it's for." The 3rd radiated vision and ownership proclaiming with enthusiasm, "Man, I'm building a grand cathedral for people to worship our great and awesome God!" **What are some of the current views/attitudes of work by men in our culture? Why? What is your current perspective/attitude (+/-) toward the work God has assigned to you as a husband, father, neighbor and businessman?**

**INGmen** who are growing, maturing and transforming understand that work is not simply about providing, performance or position. Nor is it about economic exchange, financial advancement or achieving the American Dream culminating with retirement. INGmen understand that God wired man to work and therefore see all legitimate work as a sacred calling and extension of His work. No matter the vocation, they see their present job as partnering with God to manage His creation. Work is one of the best ways to promote His glory, reflect His image, advance His Kingdom purposes, and contribute to the welfare of others (family) through love motivated service. INGmen use their drive to work to honor God by being productive, creative, inventive, excellent and generous as stewards/managers of this gift. **How many INGmen are in "full time ministry?"**

**What does God teach about work from the following passages and what should it mean for your job and vocation?**

1. **Gen 1; 2:2; John 5:17 Col 1:16-17; Ps 104:10-30; 111; Deut 11:1-7; John 4:34.** Who invented work? How important is work to God? Where does work get its value? (\$, position, productivity)
2. **Gen 1:26-29; 2:15-20; Eccl 3:13.** What does it mean that God set man to work before sin entered the human race? How has sin tarnished God's original design for your work?

3. **Gen 2:1-3, 8,15; Eccl 5:18-19; Ps 8.** What does it mean that the very first thing we see God doing is working and that we are created as His image bearers?
4. Which of the following occupations is the most important? Farmer (**Gen 2:15**); brick maker (**Ex 1:14**); builder of tabernacles (**Ex 35:24**); weaver of fine linen (**I Chron 4:21**); parent (**Job 1:1-5**), shepherd (**Ps 78:2**); worship leader (**II Chron 8:21**). How important is your work to God's Kingdom plan and purposes?
5. **Eph 4:11-32.** How is work a balance of both responsibilities and relationships? What has God given to help you find/keep balance?
6. **Eccl 2:4-11; 3:13-14.** Does work ultimately satisfy? How can God use your work to bring lasting and fulfilling satisfaction? How do you think God views the American Dream? Why?
7. **Col 3:22-4:1; Eph 5:18; 6:5-9.** What are some of the attitudes and motivations the Lord wants us to develop in the marketplace?
8. **Dan 1; Gen 39 + 41.** How does working hard through adversity prepare INGmen for further effective work?
9. **II Thess 3:7-15; I Tim 5:10.** How should your work build both community and individuals? How should it provide for your family?
10. **Luke 10:25-37.** How can your vocation become an extension both of God's love for others and your love for God? What is the connection between your everyday work and what God wants done in the world?
11. **I Cor 10:23-33.** How is a Christ follower to live in the gray areas at work? (language, events, motivations)
12. **John 17:3-8.** How are you doing in accomplishing the work God has assigned to you during this season of life?
13. **John 6:29.** What is the hardest work you will ever do as an INGman? Why?
14. **John 14:10-14.** What did Jesus promise if we grow in our faith and prayer, especially regarding our works?