

## **Faith at Work: Affirming the Work of Others**

Over the past few weeks as we've looked at the topic of work, we've seen how work fits into the drama of Scripture. Work was not a result of the fall; we were created to work! We've also seen how we can love God and love our neighbors through our work, and how God refines us and shapes our character through our work. In this final study we are going to consider how affirming the work of others can be an application of some core relational commands in Scripture.

**Opening Question:** What is a way that you received some kind of good from someone else's work this past week?

### **Read Philippians 2:3-4**

1. What kind of heart is Paul urging us to have?
2. What does a humble person do? Not do?
3. What are ways that being genuinely interested in other's work fulfills what Paul says here?

### **Read Hebrews 10:23-25**

4. What are the core commands in this passage?
5. Do you think that you "own" what the writer of Hebrews is advocating? Explain.
6. Apply this passage to workplace theology. How might we do this related to each other's work?

Steve said:

I'd encourage you to begin by being interested in the work of those closest to you - your spouse, roommate, close friends, etc. - and branch out from there. Sometimes we take for granted those closest to us, especially in the context of work. I dare say that some of you here today feel very much unnoticed and unappreciated in relation to your work. It would be a real gift if those closest to you would take a genuine interest in the work you do. This week have conversations with those closest to you about their work; get below the surface and hear how they really think and feel about their work; pray for each other in the context of their work.

7. Who are 3 or 4 people close to you (spouse, children, friends, etc.) that you can seek to understand their work and encourage them in it? Make a list.
  
8. As you think about those to whom you are closest, how well have expressed interest in their work in the past? Explain.
  
9. Steve offered several questions that we can use to interact with others in meaningful ways regarding their work:
  - *How would you describe your work?*
  - *What do you like best about your job/career?*
  - *What are the most challenging/frustrating aspects of your work?*
  - *What are some ways that you do your work "as to the Lord"?*
  - *How do you "love your neighbor" through your work?*
  - *How can I pray for you in relation to your work?*

What would it do for you if those closest to you asked you such questions with genuine interest?

10. What has been the most important/helpful thing that you have learned from this sermon series on work?