

Soul Food



Generations

By Ken Ortize

Teaching Pastor, Calvary Spokane Church

Advancements in nutrition and the health sciences have changed the American workplace. For the first time, five generations of Americans are living and working together. This has made the workplace far more complex because when it comes to our view of work & money, we are very different.

Each generation has a

very different life-experience, resulting in differing definitions of what work is all about. Traditionalists survived the Great Depression and WWII; followed by two decades of unparalleled prosperity. They were thankful, and never forgot how quickly it could disappear. For them it was all about safety. They wanted a good paying, stable, secure job that would give

them a safe retirement. If you find a job like that, you stayed there for life.

“Baby-Boomers” reaped the benefits of their parent’s prosperity. Never having experienced deprivation, we were obsessed with being successful. Upward mobility was our goal. We moved about a lot, pursuing every opportunity that promised higher pay and more prestige. Brand loyalty didn’t matter as much as being “Rich and famous”. And we were willing to “fake it until we made it”. We took credit debt and credit cards to new, never before seen heights. And in the the church, the prosperity gospel found many adherents.

Then the world changed: 911 and the Great Recession brought a new reality. The cost of housing and education skyrocketed, just as the job market shrank. If you were lucky enough to find a job, pay was lower and advance-

ment was slower. The Baby-Boomers were living longer, and taking longer to retire. Plus, Gen X’ers and Millennial’s want more than a great income. They also want significance; and they are willing to wait for it.

Question? Are any of these views biblical? Or is our view work & money merely the consequence of how our cultural experience has shaped us? Answer! We tend to divorce work & worship, and in doing so we have missed both the greater purpose of our lives, and the joy of serving God by working out our faith in the workplace.

The Bible tells us that work is not only about us, but also about God. Max Lucado points out, “With God, our work matters as much as our worship... work can be worship”. Tim Keller added, work is “less about prosperity and finding personal fulfillment... and more about finding op-

portunities to serve God and other people through our work.”

A job is not only a place where we can make money and find personal fulfillment. It is also a place to portray Christ in how we do our job and earn our money. You probably don’t need a new job, better pay, or a more fulfilling career. You may, as Paul told the Corinthians, only need a fresh attitude about the job you already have: “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” (1Corinthians 10:31). Make today and everyday, “take Jesus to work day.” It will change your life, and change your career.

Editor’s Note: You can connect with Calvary Spokane Church on their social media community, The City, at <https://calvaryspokane.onthecity.org>. You can also check out their many resources available including podcasts at www.calvaryspokane.com or call their office at 509-467-2860 for more information



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