

TRUE NORTH: A SERIES FOR MEN

Episode 06 – Redeeming Work

Episode 06 - Redeeming Work

1. Consider the following quote from the episode:

“Work is good...we are made to work and when we’re doing meaningful work, it’s good for us, it’s healthy for us...We were made to be useful; we’re made to be productive.” *Matt Fuller*

a) Do you agree with Matt Fuller?



b) Why is it hard for men to be unemployed?



c) How can you or your group support men who are 'between jobs'?**d) What are some implications for retirement?**

2. Nancy Pearcey spoke about the "cultural mandate", pointing to:

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

Genesis 2:15

And Karl said:

"The Garden (of Eden) was not a holiday resort with a pool and coolrecreation room where Adam and Eve were to sit around in God's glory and provision. Their role was to tend the garden – to work. When God saw all He had made and said it was good, work was part of that vision." *Karl Faase*



What are the good things about work? Should we expect to enjoy our work?**3. After sin infects our world, work is affected too. Read Genesis 3:17-19**

“To Adam He said, ‘Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it.’ Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.’”

Where have you seen work become ‘thorns and thistles and sweat’?**4. Consider this comment by Dr Owen Boyd:**

“There are more under-the-radar injuries. (It’s) more the soul-crushing aspect of being just a cog in the wheel, not able to flourish, not able to deliver with agency and autonomy.” *Dr Owen Boyd*

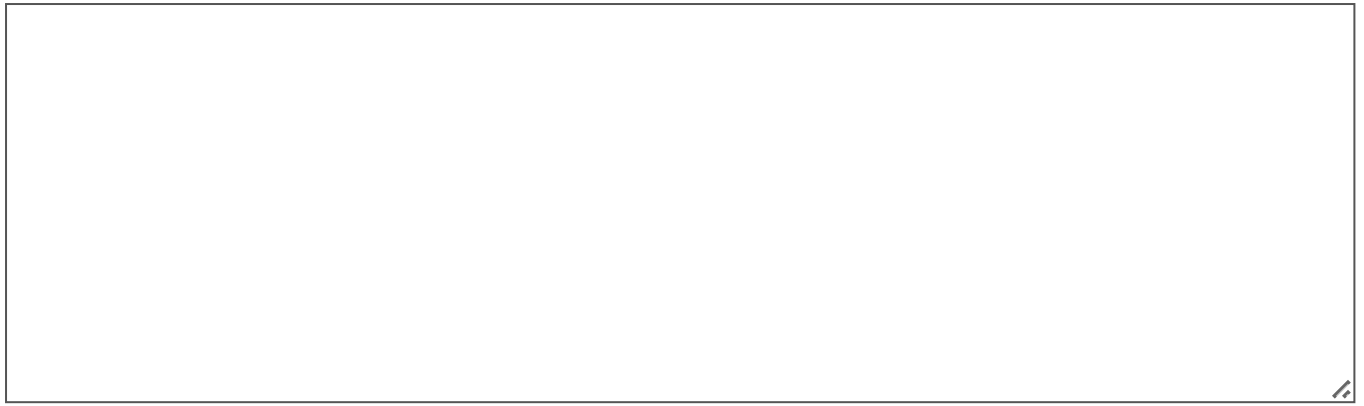
a) When is work soul-crushing? Have you ever experienced this?**b) How can men support other men who are in jobs that feel this way?****5. Read this quote from Ed Davies:**

"There's a thing in Japan called the Hikikomori...They've got about a million boys, mostly boys, who essentially lock themselves away and play computer games and just retreat from the world...The message they get is that they're not really wanted. So at the end of school or university they think, 'Well, I could go to work, but does anyone want me?'" Ed Davies

Hikikomori comes from the Japanese verbs hiku ("to pull") and komoru ("to seclude oneself"), literally meaning "pulling inward" or "being confined". It is not formally classified as a mental illness, but can co-occur with conditions like depression or anxiety. It is considered a major social concern in Japan, with estimates suggesting over one million affected individuals. The United States, Canada, Australia, Brazil, and the UK have also documented individuals meeting criteria similar to hikikomori.

Have you seen this problem in your community, young men who essentially drop out or retreat into the virtual world?





6. Karl talked about Ian Rowe's pathway for young people:

"F.R.E.E... Acronym for Family, Religion, Education and Entrepreneurship. This is not all about trying to be the next Elon Musk. It's about asking, what you can bring to whatever you do – your work, your school, your community? What is the need? What can I bring? How can this improve? What is a Godly addition I can bring?"

a) How would you answer Karl's questions?



b) How could a retiree answer these questions?



7. Slavery in the ancient world isn't an exact parallel to modern employment, but there are some principles that carry across. Read the following Bible passages:



“Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favour, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,” *Colossians 3:22-23*

“Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.” *Ephesians 4:28*

“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.” *1 Thessalonians 4:11-12*

Why should a Christian man be a diligent worker? What reasons are there that will help us turn up, if we’re in a job that we don’t enjoy?

8. Not all work is paid work. Many men have volunteer roles that bring joy and fulfilment. This is especially true in retirement.

a) What volunteer roles do you participate in, either in your church or local community?