

“What’s God Say About That?”

Week 11

“Laziness”

Proverbs

Sometimes, in America, we mask laziness with busyness. Just because you are busy doesn’t mean that you aren’t lazy. Do you find that you can mask your laziness with busyness?

What’s laziness, what’s God say about it, and what are you going to do about it?

Entertainment:

Most people spend the bulk of their free time looking at their phone, TV, computer, or tablet.

Go to your phone (especially if you have an iPhone) and see how many hours you have spent on screen time. Go to “Settings” > “Screen Time.” What does it say? What app do you spend the most time on? What surprised you the most in your findings?

4 Aspects Of Laziness:

1. Laziness is not of God.

1a. God is a worker.

Genesis 1:1

1 In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth.

We know from the very very very beginning, that God started by creating, by working.

Genesis 2:2

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day **he rested** from all his work.

We know by chapter two that God also rests. Most of our time should be spent working. This is not an excuse for being a workaholic, but this rest should strengthen us so we can work again.

The American dream is to work work work so one day you can just rest. God has not taught us to be idle, which is unproductive and a waste of resources, but to be a worker.

1b. Jesus is a worker.

John 5:17

“My Father is working until now, and **I Myself am working.**”

John 4:34

“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”

John 17:4

“I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.”

1c. The Spirit is a worker.

Philippians 2:13

“for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

We hope we can see that if we want to be like Christ, then we should do what God, Christ, and the Spirit have all modeled.

- *God gave work before the fall.*

Genesis 2:15

“Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.”

Work is not God’s curse on man, but God’s blessing. Do you see work as a blessing or a curse? What is the goal of your work- just to create money or to see work as an act of worship?

2 Thessalonians 3:11-15

¹¹ We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹² Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³ And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

¹⁴ Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

Do you agree with Paul that we should “not associate with anyone who does not obey the instruction in his letter (which includes laziness)?” How do you best respond to someone that you think is lazy? Your spouse? Your boss? Your Co-worker? Your Children? Do you think not associating with them is the best option?

Ephesians 4:28

“He who steals must steal no longer; but rather **he must labor**, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.”

Matthew 25:26

²⁶ “His master replied, **‘You wicked, lazy servant!’**”

2. There are different kinds of laziness.

- **Physical laziness** (*Show up late. Leave early. These people will do as little as possible. They won't do anything extra.*)
 - What area do you see the most struggle as a direct result of laziness? Parenting? Obesity? Jobs?
- **Mental laziness** (*When you don't have a desire to grow intellectually and you can settle with mediocrity.*)
 - We don't know when it happened, but which way do you think the world is coming when it comes to knowledge?

Proverbs 8:10-11

Choose my instruction instead of silver,

knowledge rather than choice gold,

¹¹ for **wisdom is more precious than rubies,**

- **Spiritual laziness** (*We find it hard to Pray, reading the Bible, being in a lifegroup, etc.*)
 - *In the last ten weeks that we have talked about Proverbs, which area do you struggle with most?*
 - § *Wisdom, Discipline, Anxiety, Your Mouth, Lust, Hate/ Forgiveness, Guarding Your Heart, Wives, Husbands, Money*
 - Do you think that laziness is one of the main reasons you struggle with this?

Church is more than entertainment; it is an opportunity to soak in knowledge to empower us to serve.

“The one thing people dread more than anything else is to have to go to church on Sunday morning and be made to think.” - Donald Grey Barnhouse

3. The results of laziness.

- *Unprepared for the future - Prov. 6:7-11*
- *Makes us unhappy - Proverbs 21:25-26*
- *Brings poverty - Proverbs 24:30-34*

- *Causes us to make excuses for not working - Proverbs 26:13*
- *Causes us to procrastinate - Proverbs 20:4*

4. The remedy of laziness.

- *Confess your laziness as sin to God.*
- *Remind yourself that your work is one way you love others.*
- *Learn to value time.*
- *Choose your friends carefully.*
 - **1 Corinthians 15:33**
³³ Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”
- *Ask God to change you.*

More Questions:

What was the biggest takeaway from today’s lesson?

Examine: Take 20 minutes to find a place of silence to allow God to examine you. Ask Him to reveal if there is a place of laziness in your life. What has happened in the last week or month that you need to confess to God, specifically when it comes to laziness? Confess it.

Will your life say that you valued your time, talents, and gifts that God gave you to help further His kingdom?

Which friends do you need to have a conversation with because they are motivating you to become unmotivated?