# How do you love? 2. At work 1 Peter 2:13-21

# You were designed by God to work

## Work was God’s idea for human beings

### Work can be the great blessing or the great problem for Christians

### Many Christians either divorce their work from their faith or try to convert everyone in their company

# Work and slavery

### Peter’s letter was written to people of a different culture where slavery was the common method for what we call employment today

## Peter is NOT saying that slavery is good or bad, or right or wrong

### He’s saying God has done something wonderful for you Christians

##### He’s given you great things (1:3,4)

#### This is how you can show it in your situation

# At work you can show how wonderful God is to you by:

## Showing respect to your boss

## Doing your job well

## Showing your Christian Character before sharing your Christian testimony

### Commit no sin (don’t fall short)

### Don’t try to deceive

### Don’t retaliate

#### This is enough because we know the results of the life that did this to perfection

## The rest of the Bible gives more practical help:

### Ecclesiastes (2) tells us work is of limited value in defining us

### Paul in Colossians (3 & 4)

#### Workers

##### Obey all commands (job description)

##### Not just eye-service but whole-heartedly

##### Do each task whole-heartedly

#### Bosses

##### Pay what is right and fair

### Paul in Ephesians (6)

#### Workers

##### Obey boss as you would obey Christ

#### Bosses

##### Treat your workers with respect

##### Don’t use threats

## Practical help for Christians at work (Rick Warren)

### Seek God’s direction

### Sharpen your skills

### Stay positive in your attitude

### Tithe your profits

# Showing the love of God at work

## Is best done by shining in Christian character as you work

### And if that gives rise to the opportunity to speak about why you are like you are… then you can tell your story of how Christ came into your life and made you re-think who you are and where you fit in

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Designed for work

## Read Gen 1:26-31 then 2:7,15

### Was it God’s intention, before the fall, for man to work?

## What did ‘the fall’ do for the concept of work (Try Gen 3:17-19)?

## Discuss “If you truly enjoy your job work doesn’t feel like work”

## How far do you agree that work and paid employment are not the same?

## What work do you think you were you designed for?

# Work and slavery

## How far is it a legitimate use of the text to look at slavery when discussing work?

## Why is ‘slavery’ not a useful term in modern times when discussing work?

# Attitudes to work

## To what extent do Christians need to distance themselves from those who say ‘my work is my life’?

### How should we respond?

## How, if at all, does a walk with God change your view of ambition and work goals?

### Jesus, Peter and Paul all seem to say that it is important to be a ‘good worker’ (Mt 22:21; 1Pet2:18-21; Eph 6:5-10; Col 3:22-4:1)

#### How would you define a good worker?

##### Is Jesus saying God and work should be in separate boxes?

## In what ways does Paul expect a Christian faith to affect the attitude of an employer?

## To what extent do you agree that Ecclesiastes 2:24 is a reflection of a Christian’s attitude to work?