

Life in Babylon (part 1)

1 Life can feel good in Babylon

2 The problem in Babylon – Revelation 17-18

Babylon will buy and sell anything

Babylon the harlot

The problem of dialog in Babylon. Case: sexual ethics and expressive individualism

3 Two dispositions toward Babylon

Jeremiah 29 – praying for Babylon

Psalms 137 – praying against Babylon

Working in Babylon

1 The problem - Babylon will buy and sell anything - Rev 17-18

- **The question** – Do we disengage or remain? Work for good; risk compromise
- **First principles** – Work is good, even in Babylon. But not if it requires dishonesty.

Case #1: Believers in government: To work or not to work for Pharaoh

Joseph and Moses

Why they made opposite decisions: Both aimed to preserve life

Case #2: Believers in government: To work or not to work for Ahab

Elijah and Obadiah

One protested wickedness; one mitigated the effects of wickedness

Diagnostic questions

- Am I working as a servant of the kingdom, an agent of righteousness and reform? Or am I merely fitting in, doing a job, making a living?
- When potential conflicts between business and kingdom goals arise, do I stand on principle or do I do whatever it takes to keep my job?
- What motivates me? Fear of the opinions of others? Greed for wealth? Love for God and neighbor? Do you work with other disciples to achieve positive goals?

Working in unpopular occupations –



2 Basic principles for everyone

- Work hard, for the Lord.
- Subdue the earth and fill it
- Work for the Lord - The lesson in the sweaters

3 The Lord sees our work – Matthew 25:34-41

All honest work makes a difference

The Lord sees it if we don't: teachers, fast food workers, loan officers

Matthew 25 names the realms of work: Food and drink, clothing and shelter, health, the needy, communication

4 Faithfulness at work

Not many are noble (1 Cor 1)

Even the noble face limits (1 Chron 22)

Martin Luther "Our daily bread" and our work

5 Is all work equally significant?

Yes and No. - 1 Cor 7 and Luke 12:47

But all work should make a difference – Isaiah 32