

**“Functional Families In A Dysfunctional Age:  
Teaching The Value of Work”**  
May 25, 2008 \* 2 Thess.3:6-13

I. Back when America was more of an agricultural society, what was true about the family and work?

II. Fast forward to today – what are the societal trends we observe?

III. How have we gotten to this place?

A. Is it that kids have changed?

B. What is a parent’s primary job?

C. How do we do this?

**Successful living is all about having the right**

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

What’s the difference?

IV. What’s the right teaching to give to our children about work?

A. What’s the background of 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13?

B. So what ideas about work are we to teach?

**Idea #1 – Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ like the plague.**

1. What is the difference between this and rest?

**Idea #2 – Work is the means by which we supply our**

\_\_\_\_\_.

1. By working, we do not become a \_\_\_\_\_ to others.

2. By working, I learn the \_\_\_\_\_ of supplying my own needs.

**Idea #3 – Work requires “\_\_\_\_\_” and earning the bread I eat.**

1. What do we mean by this?

2. “Find something you love to do and you’ll never work a day in your life.” What should we make of this saying?

**Idea #4 – Always take the \_\_\_\_\_ of morality in your work.**

1. There are always quicker ways of making money than God’s way – like what?

2. What does taking the ‘high road’ mean?

V. How Do We Train Our Children To Work?

A. Finances – Suggestions For:

1. Preschoolers:

2. Elementary Aged Children:

3. Rite of Passage Young Adults:

B. Meal Preparation And Cleanup – Suggestions For:

1. Preschoolers:

2. Elementary Aged Children:

3. Rite of Passage Young Adults:

## ***“Functional Families In A Dysfunctional Age: Teaching The Value of Work”***

*May 25, 2008 \* 2 Thess.3:6-13*

*I. Back when America was more of an agricultural society, what was true about the family and work?*

**Every member of the family – old and young – understood the value of work, and everyone shared in the workload, everyone had a contribution to make in keeping the family moving forward.**

*II. Fast forward to today – what are the societal trends we observe?*

**Today 25% of Americans between the ages of 18-34 at any one time are not in the workforce. A generation known as the Twixters has been born – “young adults who live off their parents, bounce from job to job and hop from mate to mate. They’re not lazy. They just won’t grow up.” That according to TIME Magazine. Young people are postponing marriage till later in life. They’re postponing the start of their careers. More and more are extending their years of education through post-graduate studies. More and more graduates are taking a “gap” year after college, going off to travel some, take odd jobs, enjoy life, find themselves, before settling down. Walker Moore (author of ‘Rite of Passage Parenting’) in his travels to campuses hears from RA’s (Resident Administrators) across the country that more and more kids are coming to college lacking basic life skills: oh, they can text message with lightning speed, and Instant message six people at a time, but they can’t do their laundry, they can’t manage even a basic checking account. More and more employers offer similar complaints: they can’t find good, reliable help. People who are on time. People who have basic manners.**

*III. How have we gotten to this place?*

*A. Is it that kids have changed?*

**Walker Moore’s book is filled with stories of young people he’s met today who handle life with remarkable maturity. He met teenage security guards in Israel, 19 year olds packing heat, and no one bat an eye about it. He describes Peruvian Indians who at 16 or 17 build their first home in preparation for marriage. No –**

**kids haven’t changed. Kids are kids. They respond to whatever teaching and training they are given. What’s changed is how they are raised.**

*B. What is a parent’s primary job?*

**A parent’s primary job is to prepare his or her children to enter the world as a self-supporting, self-reliant adult. That’s it.**

*C. How do we do this?*

**Successful living is all about having the right teaching & training.**

*What’s the difference?*

**Teaching has to do with learning the right ideas and values. Training has to do with receiving hands-on experience which puts the teaching into practice.**

*IV. What’s the right teaching to give to our children about work?*

*A. What’s the background of 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13?*

**The apostle Paul is here writing to a church that has gotten sloppy in its Christian living. To the point where laziness had actually become a big problem. There was a rumor floating about that Jesus had already come back, or was on his way back any day now, and hearing that rumor prompted some people to quit their jobs, and stop planting their gardens, and stop doing things with excellence. Paul had to set them straight.**

*B. So what ideas about work are we to teach?*

**Idea #1 – Avoid idleness like the plague.**

*1. What is the difference between this and rest?*

**Rest is essential, it is part of the rhythm of life which God created. Once a week, we are commanded to take a Sabbath, a day of rest where no work is to be done, meaning that which we do the rest of the week to earn our keep. The Sabbath is for worship, it is for play, it is for recreation and refreshment. It is life-giving. And rejuvenating. Idleness is none of those things. Idleness is purposeless inactivity which sucks the life and vision and energy out of you. And not only that, but idleness leaves a vacuum which usually gets filled with mischief and trouble.**

**Idea #2 – Work is the means by which we supply our daily bread.**

1. *By working, we do not become a burden to others.*
2. *By working, I learn the joy of supplying my own needs.*

**Idea #3 – Work requires “settling down” and earning the bread I eat.**

1. *What do we mean by this?*

We must teach our children that work is not always glamorous and fun but requires commitment and discipline. That’s why it’s called “work”. It’s going to require some sweat, some effort. Life is just not lived on this plane of constant exhilaration and excitement out in the stratosphere – most of life is lived in the day to day grind of walking the earth. And those people who learn this lesson, and settle down, then commit to their choices for the long haul, and don’t bail at the first sign of boredom or struggle, are going to experience a richness in life that everyone else will miss out on.

2. *“Find something you love to do and you’ll never work a day in your life.” What should we make of this saying?*

No matter what you do for work, even if it’s something you’re really passionate about, unless you’re one of those athletes who makes \$40,000 for every pitch they throw, or actors that makes \$3 mil a picture, it’s not going to be ooh and ahh most days. That alarm’s going to yank you rudely out of bed more times than you can count. The proportion of work weeks to vacation weeks is never going to seem right to you. Even the best part of your job will often seem to you a drudgery, and you’ll spend days dreaming of what your life could have been like only if you had done something else. But at some point, you have to settle down. You can’t go down every path – you must choose one. And earn the bread you eat, and boy, you’ll be earning every cent of it, though discipline, and sacrifice, and hard work. But children who’ve

never been taught this, and never had to taste it a little bit growing up through training, are in for a rude awakening once they get out there.

**Idea #4 – Always take the high road of morality in your work.**

1. *There are always quicker ways of making money than God’s way – like what?*

**You can sell drugs and make a lot of money. Play the lottery and luck out. Rob from people.**

2. *What does taking the ‘high road’ mean?*

**Don’t steal. Not a pen from your office. Not an hour from your boss. Don’t lie. Don’t pad your resume. Don’t extort. Don’t cheat to get the job. Don’t fudge on your taxes. It’s a dog-eat-dog world out there. Decide now not to be a dog. Decide now that you won’t play that game. Decide now that God will be able to take care of you if you take that high road. He’s got your back. You may not end up with as big a house as that other guy. May not have as much free time as that other guy. That’s OK. Psalm 62:10 – “Do not trust in extortion or take pride in stolen goods; though your riches increase do not set your heart on them.”**

*V. How Do We Train Our Children To Work?*

*A. Finances – Suggestions From Walker Moore For:*

*1. Preschoolers:*

**“Give tithes and offerings; save a portion of money received.”**

*2. Elementary Aged Children:*

**“Pay a bill or bills. Set up and maintain a simple budget.”**

*3. Rite of Passage Young Adults:*

**“Supervise household budget or a portion; manage college savings, secure a part-time job.”**

*B. Meal Preparation And Cleanup – Suggestions For:*

*1. Preschoolers:*

**“Wash & dry fruits & veggies; set table; wash & dry unbreakable dishes”**

*2. Elementary Aged Children:*

**“Plan & prepare meals; take responsibility for one or more household staples”**

*3. Rite of Passage Young Adults:*

**“Take regular responsibility for preparing family meals”**