

The Concurrently Companion



Episode 46: Human flourishing and work

Topic introduction

Brielle Asero posted a video on TikTok in which she talked about her first nine-to-five job after college, the commute she faces, and what that means for her life.

Key terms: human flourishing, generative, “whole-person” or holistic, calling/vocation/work, restoration

Questions for self-examination

Are we failing to prepare the younger generation to flourish in adult life, to the point that a Gen Z grad breaks down because she has to work a nine-to-five job? What do they need to be equipped to face the challenges of the adult world?

Is there something wrong with the way we’ve structured our modern work life, or our modern cities and towns, that makes adult life inconducive to human flourishing? What can we do to change it?

How are we equipping the generation with those things of structure, and even infrastructure, and those things of support, discipleship, relational things of life—to face those challenges that we see? How am I contributing to their understanding of work, of human flourishing, of relationships?

What kind of attitude do you model for your kids and students regarding your work (housework, career, rearing children, teaching, etc.)?

What is our work during the in-between of the *already-but-not-yet*? What does it mean in terms of how we lead our families, how we disciple our children ultimately to also be leaders of their families?

How is our work a foretaste of the New Heavens and the New Earth? How does our work help to bring everything under His reign, pushing back the curse? How can we help restore the appetite for life in those who are spiraling under the weight of the curse?

Questions for discussion with your students/teens

Look at the transcript for this episode and read with them. What do you observe regarding this young woman’s response to life? What do you resonate with? What do you notice in the comments?

What was human work like before the fall? And what did it have to do with human flourishing?

Read Genesis 1:28. How does obedience (to God, parents, teachers) fit into the idea of work?

How did work change after Adam and Eve's disobedience? Does the fact that work changed, and came with now a curse and toil under the Sun (see Ecclesiastes) mean that we just have to kind of cynically resign ourselves to it?

What does our work look like now that Christ has come and set us back on the path towards human flourishing? What is included in our work? What is the point of our work?

What would the ideal city look like? Make a city plan together and think through what it would include. Consider these dimensions: social, cognitive (learning), emotional (relational), spiritual, vocational, physical. . . What would houses look like? Green spaces? Streets and transportation? **We would love to read or view pictures of your plans! Send your "City Plans for Human Flourishing" to us at newscoach@wng.org.**

Scriptural anchors/provision

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment." — Revelation 21:5

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