

## **SESSION 5 – Traps**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. These work traps can rob us of our joy, our influence, and our integrity.

### **II. SIX TRAPS TO AVOID AT WORK**

#### 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Expectations Traps

- When our work doesn't meet our expectations, we can easily give in to \_\_\_\_\_, bitterness, and cynicism.
- Genesis 3:17-18 teaches us that, as a result of Adam's sin, work will now involve "painful toil" and be frustrated by "thorns and thistles."
- "All work and human effort [are] marked by frustration and lack of fulfillment... Work is not itself a curse, but it now lies with all other aspects of human life under the curse of sin." Tim Keller
- Authentic Men manage tension between a \_\_\_\_\_ vision of work and the realities of a broken world.

#### 2. The Significance Trap

- Performance and success have become the \_\_\_\_\_ of his significance.

"We are the first culture in history where men define themselves solely by performing and achieving in the workplace. It is the way you become somebody and feel good about your life... There has never been more psychological, social, and emotional pressure in the marketplace than there is at this very moment." Tim Keller

- Only Jesus is a sure \_\_\_\_\_ for your significance and identity.

#### 3. The Money Trap

- Materialism – when a man defines himself, not by his production, but by his consumption.
  - Materialism won't \_\_\_\_\_.

- “He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income.” Ecclesiastes 5:10 (ESV)
- God calls us to give and bless others, not just consume.
- Inappropriate debt – when a man unnecessarily or unwisely \_\_\_\_\_ money he doesn’t have.
  - The Bible reminds us that, “The borrower is the slave of the lender.” Proverbs 22:7 (ESV)
  - Debt should always be approached with wisdom and some trepidation.
- The Fear of Money – when a man thinks that money, in and of itself, is a \_\_\_\_\_ thing.
  - The Bible says that the “\_\_\_\_\_ of money” is evil.
  - Use your skill to generate money so you can give life to others.
  - Be certain your ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ and happiness is in the life-giving grace of Jesus and not the size of your bank account.

#### 4. The Compartment Trap

- This is when a man compartmentalizes the different parts of his life.
  - According to Psychology Today, “Men have an uncanny and dangerous ability to compartmentalize their lives into mutually exclusive rooms whose walls have no windows or doors.”
- Authentic Men integrate their \_\_\_\_\_ into their work lives.

#### 5. The Sex Trap

- The sex trap is when a man allows \_\_\_\_\_ - to invade his work-life.
- Authentic Men proactively create an environment where women can feel safe and comfortable, where they are respected, and where they are valued.
- Having a \_\_\_\_\_ life will eventually tear your soul apart.
- Don’t try to fight this battle by yourself.
- Follow the advice of 1 Corinthians 6:18 (ESV), which tells us to “flee from sexual immorality.”

## 6. The Retirement Trap

- Around 1900, 75% of men over the age of 65 were still working. In fact, most men worked as long as they were able and if a man wasn't working, it was most often because he was disabled.
- In many modern cultures, retirement has become the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ in a man's work life.
- The Bible doesn't make retirement the ultimate goal of life.
- Work, in some form or fashion, should be a part of every \_\_\_\_\_ of every man's life.
- Full retirement is going to be unattainable for most of us:
  - 75% of Americans nearing retirement in 2010 had less than \$30,000 in their retirement accounts.
- UCLA's legendary basketball coach, John Wooden, is an excellent example of how to handle retirement:

“After winning his tenth NCAA basketball title at age sixty-five, [Wooden] retired from coaching but [he] remained involved at UCLA, wrote a number of books and was often quoted and consulted.”

Wise is the man who takes note of these traps and not only avoids them, but replaces them with a Biblical vision for work.

## **DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. Read the quote below and discuss its relevance for how men think about their work. Why do you think our culture puts so much emphasis on work?

“We are the first culture in history where men define themselves solely by performing and achieving in the workplace. It is the way you become somebody and feel good about your life ... there has never been more psychological, social, and emotional pressure in the marketplace than there is at this very moment.”

2. Tierce talked about three different strains of the money trap: materialism, inappropriate debt, and the fear of money. Which of those did you identify with the most?
3. Do you struggle with the compartment trap? Are you the same person at work as you are at home? Discuss.
4. How have you traditionally thought of retirement? Did this session impact your view?

## ANSWERS

### SESSION 5 – Traps

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. These work traps can rob us of our joy, our influence, and our integrity.

#### II. SIX TRAPS TO AVOID AT WORK

##### 1. The **Unrealistic** Expectations Traps

- When our work doesn't meet our expectations, we can easily give in to **disappointment** bitterness, and cynicism.
- Genesis 3:17-18 teaches us that, as a result of Adam's sin, work will now involve "painful toil" and be frustrated by "thorns and thistles."
- "All work and human effort [are] marked by frustration and lack of fulfillment... Work is not itself a curse, but it now lies with all other aspects of human life under the curse of sin." Tim Keller
- Authentic Men manage tension between a **biblical** vision of work and the realities of a broken world.

##### 2. The Significance Trap

- Performance and success have become the **main source** of his significance.  
  
"We are the first culture in history where men define themselves solely by performing and achieving in the workplace. It is the way you become somebody and feel good about your life... There has never been more psychological, social, and emotional pressure in the marketplace than there is at this very moment." Tim Keller
- Only Jesus is a sure **foundation** for your significance and identity.

##### 3. The Money Trap

- Materialism – when a man defines himself, not by his production, but by his consumption.
  - Materialism won't **satisfy**

- “He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income.” Ecclesiastes 5:10 (ESV)
- God calls us to give and bless others, not just consume.
- Inappropriate debt – when a man unnecessarily or unwisely **borrow**s money he doesn’t have.
  - The Bible reminds us that, “The borrower is the slave of the lender.” Proverbs 22:7 (ESV)
  - Debt should always be approached with wisdom and some trepidation.
- The Fear of Money – when a man thinks that money, in and of itself, is a **bad** thing.
  - The Bible says that the “**love** of money” is evil.
  - Use your skill to generate money so you can give life to others.
  - Be certain your ultimate **hope** and happiness is in the life-giving grace of Jesus and not the size of your bank account.

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  - According to Psychology Today, “Men have an uncanny and dangerous ability to compartmentalize their lives into mutually exclusive rooms whose walls have no windows or doors.”
- Authentic Men integrate their **faith** into their work lives.

#### 5. The Sex Trap

- The sex trap is when a man allows **lust**- to invade his work-life.
- Authentic Men proactively create an environment where women can feel safe and comfortable, where they are respected, and where they are valued.
- Having a **double** life will eventually tear your soul apart.
- Don’t try to fight this battle by yourself.
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