# LOVING GOD

## Part seven:
## Love is … Work

**"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart/(*mind*) and with all your soul/(*being*) and with all your might." Deuteronomy 6:5**

Another way of saying this verse could be **"Love God with all you are and all you do."**

Today we live compartmentalised lives; work, family, recreation, service and worship. I call this a "pizza life". The segments are sliced but unfortunately some slices are oversized and some very thin.

**Exercise:** Draw a circle and then slice it up into the segments of your life.

**Discuss:** Does it work? How realistic is it?

This is not how the Bible views life.

The passage in Deuteronomy 6:5 starts with a statement that God is "ONE", an undividable whole! Since you have been created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), loving God therefore is the engagement of your ***whole being***. Love cannot be sliced into proportions! The divisions of life into work, family, recreation, service and worship are our making and not Gods. **Life is an undividable whole.**

This is further supported by the Hebrew language where the word for worship and work are the same. *Avodah* means both worship and work, that is why we have the language of a "service of worship" (the work of worship or the worship of work). *Avodah* is used for work, labour, craftsmanship, production, service, ministry and worship.

**Read the following passages and apply the "undividable whole" view of life.**

Genesis 2:15, Exodus 3:12, 8:1, Deuteronomy 10:12, Joshua 24:15, 1 Chronicles 28:21, Psalm 104:23, John 4:34, 5:17, 6:29, 9:4, 17:4. Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Colossians 3:17.

In what ways can your work be an act of love for your family or community?

In what ways can your work be an act of love for God?

"*Most of us, like assembly line workers, have jobs that are too small for our spirit. Jobs are not big enough for people*" Nora Watson.

Is your work big enough for your spirit?

When can work be idolatry or slavery (i.e. Not worship/love)?

**Living service/work = worship = an act of love**

"*Offer your bodies as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship*" Romans 12:1

- Offer: Am I willing to offer God my work as an act of worship and love?
- Living: A dead sacrifice has nothing more to offer. A living sacrifice has to be alive. What makes you fully alive?
- Holy: Is it Holy?
- Pleasing: What do you think brings the smile/pleasure of God?
- Worship: How do you connect your worship and your work?

"*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*" Colossians 3:17

- Whatever: What range of things could possibly qualify under the heading of "whatever"?
- In the name of: Whose name appears on the credit list at the end of the show?
- Giving thanks: An attitude is a way of life.

"*Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men*" Ephesians 6:7

- Serve/work: How is your work an act of service to God and others?
- Wholeheartedly: passionately with all your heart, soul, mind and strength! Are you passionately engaged in your work?

**Love is . . .work**

**This is how we love God with all our heart/(*mind*) and with all our soul/(*being*) and with all our might."**

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