



Classic Values Career

CAREER WORKSHOP – July 14th at 12Stone™ Church - [REGISTER HERE!](#)

Make plans now to attend Monday, July 14th in Cornerstone for our 2nd workshop of the 79 Day Challenge! Refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres begin at 6:30 p.m. and the workshop at 7:00 pm. Register today. Child care will not be available for this event.

CAREERSCAPING - KILL THE KUDZU!

Working 9 To 5

Do you remember the song '9 to 5' by Dolly Parton? The lyrics weren't exactly "Take this Job and *Love it*", were they? Or what about "All Taking and No Giving" or... "I Ain't Working Here No More"? While these country classics made us laugh, (and perhaps even sing along with passion!) these songs actually provide keen insight into the undercurrent of emotions often sensed in our workplaces, don't they?

But it doesn't have to be that way. When we focus on the right things, our careerscape can be a God given vista, exceedingly more beautiful than we could ever have imagined. But like the landscape around my home, my careerscape requires some major zapping with 'Round-Up' and in repeat applications! Like the monster weed kudzu, if I have poor work habits, a bad attitude or sloppy performance, I smother initiative and enthusiasm, not only in myself, but in those around me.

So how can we identify and remove those things in our work environment that literally choke the life out of our calling and purpose? Could it be that the hard work of weeding starts with His hand pruning some things *within us*, not the people and circumstances *around us*?

"He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." (John 15:2)

Our 'careerscaping' will take planning, diligence, continual care, (and perhaps even some pruning), in order to bear the fruit God desires for us.

Out to Lunch (Unattended)

Proverbs 24:30-31 says *"I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; thorns have come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins."*

Look around! Those pesky "unattended" weeds are everywhere, exposing us to the true roots beneath the surface. Where there is lack of attention, there are weeds! They may surface as routine lateness, missed deadlines, hot tempers,

critical attitudes, internet abuse, mediocre effort, or even cheating on expenses. Defaults like "I will attend to the problem later" or "It will eventually get done" add to the kudzu and pretty soon, the root character flaws creating the weeds have taken over! Do you ever wonder what caused the sluggard in Proverbs to neglect the field? Perhaps it was some of the same issues we face in the proper management of our careerscapes today.

Pay Day (Attended)

TGIF! Why? Because it's pay day! Have you ever really looked forward to a big pay day? You know, that really big day, when the blood, sweat and tears you've given to make things happen finally create a payoff? Here it comes... the reward for your diligence, initiative, enthusiasm, and team work. For taking charge, listening, planning and executing! You begin to sing, "Take this Job and Love It" and this time you actually mean it. Take this Job and **Love It!** So what is the difference here? The careerscape that is "attended" to, not only keeps the weeds at bay, but it produces job satisfaction and personal fulfillment (fruit!).

Work is a Blessing / Weeds are a Curse

So, how are *you* doing? Can others see the evidence of how well you are "killing the kudzu"? Careerscape management is a fulltime effort that requires periodic review and honest assessment.

During your monthly, quarterly or annual reviews at work, when your goals and results are front and center and being discussed, what is your attitude? Do you self-assess? Do you invite others to advise you? Do you seek out wise counsel for input and wisdom?

Let's take a look at David. He teaches us first hand how to get at the truth from his relationship with his CEO. Psalm 139:23-24 says "*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*"

David asked God to search him and point out his sin, even to the level of testing his thoughts. This is exploratory surgery for sin, the weeds in our life. How are we to recognize the weeds unless God brings them to our attention? And how do we uproot them? Through honest confession and repentance, and God is gracious to forgive and restore!

Throughout the Week

- Schedule an appointment today with God (your CEO) and take stock of the kudzu you need to be attentive to this week.
- Consider making Psalm 139:23-24 your prayer this week. Journal your time alone with God.
- Read Colossians 3:23. What areas of your career/work life need to be more God honoring?
- Just as Adam and Eve's work was made difficult by the introduction of "thorns and thistles" in Genesis 3:18, we all encounter obstacles that make our work frustrating. What are the biggest "weeds" in your work?
- Do you spend more time complaining about the weeds or working on uprooting them?
- Thank God for the blessing of work! Ask Him to correct our thinking about work, teaching us to be self-motivated and persistent. Ask Him for the strength to tackle the "weeds" that bring frustration in our work.
- Listen to PK's message on "[Work Classic Values](#)"
 - How does this teaching define work and weeds?
 - To get rid of the weeds what must you be?



Additional Resources

- [Believers in Business](#), - Laura Nash
- [9 to 5 Window, How Faith Can Transform the Workplace](#), - Os Hillman