



WHEN WORK AND FAMILY COLLIDE

By Pastor Benny Ho

Bloomberg Article August 11th 2021 entitled:
“Singapore – Playground for the Mega-Rich”

24 billion dollars were spent in luxury homes in the first half of 2021 alone. This is double the amount spent in Manhattan in the same period. Singapore is truly becoming the playground of the rich.

- While we may enjoy a higher standard of living, we may at the same time suffer a lower standard of morality, spirituality and relationship.
- This would mean a collision between our work and our family.

2 THINGS

1.WORK

2.FAMILY

- Work and family are what shape our identity.
- Work and family have direct impact on the quality of our spiritual, moral and mental life.
- They both come from God!

- **Genesis 2: 15** – “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

- **Genesis 2: 18** – “The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

- **Genesis 3: 17 – 19** – “To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow, you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Work has now become toil.

- **Isaiah 53: 6** – “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Families can now be divided.

- With the fall of man, creating a healthy family environment becomes challenging because of our inherent selfishness. Curating a successful work life is made harder now because we compete more than cooperate.

- **Colossians 3: 18 – 20** – “Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”

That's the restoration of our family.

- **Colossians 3: 23, 24** – “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

That's the reclamation of our work.

- Paul exhorted us to love our family deeply and do our work excellently.
- Family is about relationship. Work is about task. Family is about being, but work is about doing. Our family is people we must love. Our work is a task we must do.
- In the quest to have a higher standard of living, we reversed the order. We love our work, and we just do our family.

- Instead of loving our family deeply and doing our work excellently, we end up loving our work passionately and doing our family dutifully.

- Loyalty in the marketplace is very fleeting and temporal. It will only be there for as long as we can perform and then it will end.
- What we will end up with, that will last till the end is going to be our family.

- “It’s sad when men and women are forced out of organizations they bled for, to return home to families they have neglected.”

- The tasks of a stay-home Mum can overtake the depth of the relationship she has with her husband and children. She loves her work and just do her family.
- Whether we work in the home, the church or the marketplace, there is a strong tendency to become preoccupied with the doing more than the loving.
- Work can become not just an occupation but a preoccupation.

“My family is the precious cargo
that I must carry across the
finishing line.”

JOHN MAXWELL:

“Success is knowing your purpose in life, growing to your fullest potential and sowing seeds to benefit others along the way.”

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE?

- Matthew 6: 33 – “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

- “seek” — “zētéō” — “seek by inquiring”, “investigating to reach a binding resolution”, “to search by getting to the bottom of a matter”.

- The context of this passage implies that this seeking must happen habitually, consistently, continually, constantly, progressively, again and again, as a way of life.

- “first” – “protos” – “what comes first” or “foremost”. This word gives the picture of being “first in rank”. It is “chief and principal”.
- It is not just first but foremost. It is not just sequential, but it is substantial.

- “kingdom” – “basileía” – “the realm in which a king sovereignly rules”.

WHAT DOES OUR KING WANT?

He wants us to love our family deeply and do our work excellently.

3 KEY APPLICATIONS

1. Towards God – Right Purpose

Matthew 6: 33 – “Seek (and keep on seeking) first (and foremost) his kingdom (his rule and reign) and his righteousness (social, moral, and spiritual), and all these things (that the Father knows you need) will be given to you as well.”

- The key is to seek first and foremost the rule and reign of God in our lives so that in the end, it is not my will, but God's will be done!

Many of us have a job that brings home a pay cheque. Some have turned their job into a career because they do it with excellence. Few have leveraged their careers for Kingdom advancement and turn it into a calling.

3 KEY APPLICATIONS

2. Towards Family – Right Priorities

Love your family deeply and do your work excellently.

3 KEY APPLICATIONS

3. Towards Self – Right Perspective

Success is knowing your purpose in life (which is to live for God and His Kingdom), growing to your fullest potential (in order to be the best that you can which is excellence) and sowing seeds to benefit others (especially your family – both physical and spiritual).

- Your family is your most precious cargo that you must carry across the finishing line!
- When work and family collide, you know what to do!

HOW DO I DO THAT?



- It is not a regimental list of dos and don'ts, but it is a pilgrimage with Jesus.
- Jesus must be central and not just compartmental!
- Jesus is either Lord of all or He is not Lord at all!

PRAYER

“Jesus, be the Centre of my life. My life is not my own. I let you direct and dictate how I should live every aspect of my life. Tell me what to replace and what to remove in my calendar. My work and my family come from you. Help me never to neglect my family to build my work. Empower me to love my family deeply and do my work excellently. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”