



# LIVING BY DESIGN

A UNIQUE SEMINAR ABOUT WORK,  
YOUR DESIGN, AND THE TRUTH





# LIVING BY DESIGN

## INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

### 1.1 Introduction

1. True or False: We live in a society addicted to speed and ease.

### Open Discussion: Fill in the blanks

High-speed \_\_\_\_\_

Fast \_\_\_\_\_

Express \_\_\_\_\_

Instant \_\_\_\_\_

In this “high-speed, instant” world in which we live, most people also assume there should be quick fixes for all of life’s challenges. Unfortunately, that’s not reality. There are few instant and easy solutions to the challenges we encounter daily as we grow and live through real life.

This seminar is called “Living by \_\_\_\_\_”. During our time together, we’re going to be talking about right thinking, wrong thinking, decisions, and work!

### Do You Know...

- 1) How God views work and engages with it?
- 2) Why God created work?
- 3) What the Bible says about work?
- 4) How and why we work?
- 5) What kind of work you should be doing?

**“I am the light of the world: he who \_\_\_\_\_ will not walk in  
the darkness but will have the Light of life.”**

JOHN 8:12

## 1.2 Living by Revelation

We all want our steps toward our future to be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and in the \_\_\_\_\_ direction. This process isn't always easy but we can trust our Designer to reveal the right way if we will seek Him!

Living by Revelation Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

People learn, usually by experience, that it takes \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ to resolve the issues that arise on our life journey. Ultimately, the most important things in life are not items or events but rather the processes we grow, work, and live through. Successful career decision-making is certainly one of those areas in which a sound \_\_\_\_\_ is critical.

## SESSION ONE

This process involves a detailed approach utilizing a special on-line assessment tool called Career Direct® which can include a personal consultation to review the results.

### **This “Career Direct®” process ultimately requires three critical steps:**

- 1) Pray for \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Work the \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Trust God for the \_\_\_\_\_

### 1.3 “Remind Me Who I Am” by Jason Grey

Video Reflections: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

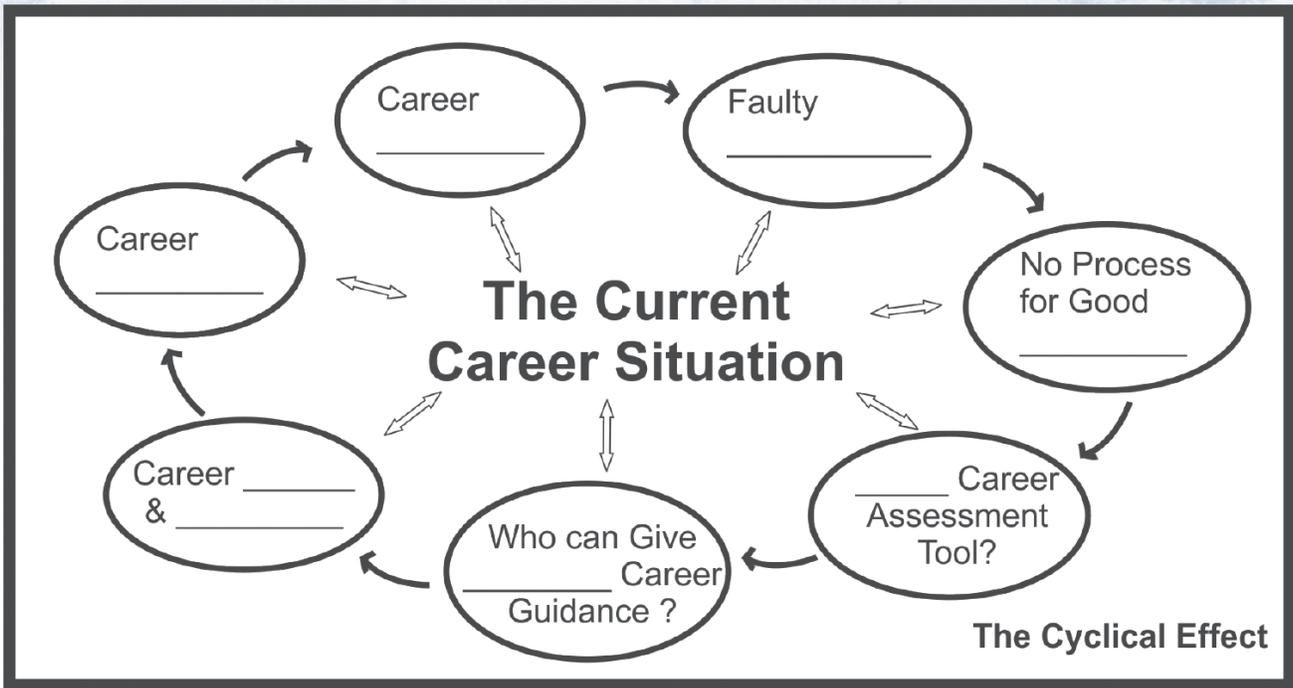
---

---

---

# LIVING BY DESIGN

## THE CURRENT CAREER SITUATION



Why are so many people unhappy in their work?

For Christians and non-Christians alike, unsatisfying careers are the result of not understanding their

\_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_

and the \_\_\_\_\_ of work.

We believe the primary cause of discontentment is because our culture has lost the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of work.

## SESSION TWO

In early days, even those who were not devout Christians had a concept of a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in their work. In general, work was seen in a more honorable light—as a way to fulfill  
one’s purpose in life.

As a society, we have adopted a \_\_\_\_\_ of work. We’ve separated our work lives  
from our spiritual lives and from God and it has taken the true purpose out of work.

Chuck Colson, president of Prison Fellowship, wrote, “God created human beings in  
His own image and part of being ‘in His image’ means that \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ - like God Himself. That’s where that innate, inner drive for work  
comes from. Work is part of \_\_\_\_\_.”

We have a WORKING GOD.  
He is fully satisfied in His work.  
We are called to live and work as His image-bearers!

### Open Discussion

First work done in the Bible?  
First work assigned in the Bible?



Although at one time work may have been considered a calling, it now seems to be merely a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Today’s workers believe their labor allows them to purchase pleasure, to fulfill materialistic  
needs, and to build their egos by gaining power and position. The view was very different in the early days, when  
William Perkins preached “a person’s vocation is a certain \_\_\_\_\_ ordained by God  
and \_\_\_\_\_ for the common good.”

**“For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?”**

LUKE 9:25

## Open Discussion

What do YOU think?  
How do you think people your age view a career?



## 2.1 Career Errors

2.1 A) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)

In our society today, the belief that a \_\_\_\_\_ can bring \_\_\_\_\_ is deceiving many. Money will never provide this. True fulfillment and satisfaction can only be found in a relationship with our Designer.

The fight is clear: Relationship with God, or relationship with money.

**Make sure that your character is free from the love of \_\_\_\_\_ being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, ' \_\_\_\_\_ will never desert you, nor will \_\_\_\_\_ ever forsake you'."**

HEBREWS 13:5

Many movie stars, athletes, and other high-income celebrities have fallen prey to the career error called materialism. Their pursuit of satisfaction through a relationship with money and materials has left them deeply unsatisfied. In Campus Crusade's World Wide Challenge Magazine's interview with Christopher Parkening, one of the preeminent virtuosos of the classical guitar, he said,

*"The world tells you that success is having a lot of money, being famous, and being independent—doing what you want to do, when you want to do it. For years I pursued success in the music field to the point that I was able to retire to a Montana ranch at age 30. My wife and I were living what most would consider the ideal life. But a year after I got everything I wanted, it meant absolutely nothing. I was empty inside.*

*"During that period of time I became a Christian, and my priorities changed. When I came across the passage in 1 Corinthians that says, 'Whatever you do, do all for the glory of God,' I realized there were only two things I knew how to do. One was fly fish, and the other was play the guitar. "I went back to playing the guitar, but this time with a different purpose. As Bach once said, 'The aim and final reason of all music is none else but the glory of God.'"*

## SESSION TWO

2.1 B) \_\_\_\_\_

Pride can subtly make us so concerned with what the \_\_\_\_\_ or says... about a "successful" job or a "good position" that we actually value the world's opinion more than the way God designed and called us. The result is that we \_\_\_\_\_ trying to do jobs we were \_\_\_\_\_ designed to do.

**"God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the \_\_\_\_\_"**

I SAMUEL 16:7

The Parable of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

**"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling. It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud."**

PROVERBS 16:18-19

The bottom line is that it's \_\_\_\_\_ for very long when you're not using the talents and strengths God has given you.

### Open Discussion: WHAT IF..

..God has designed you for a purpose that is unpopular with the world, but would it bring you enjoyment and fulfillment? Would you do it?



2.1 C) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)

Most will **not** admit that deep down, we really struggle to trust that \_\_\_\_\_ for our needs. We are driven to achieve success so we can eventually \_\_\_\_\_ of our circumstances and be \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) from the problems of life.

TRUTH!.. There is \_\_\_\_\_ in this world. \_\_\_\_\_, more \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ will not give security. A relationship with God is the only true and lasting security.

**“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from ME you can do nothing.”**

JOHN 15:5 [EMPHASIS ADDED]

The apostle Paul goes to great lengths to point out the role of faith:

**“Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”**

HEBREWS 11:6

Not investing into a relationship with your Designer leaves His true character and desire for your life unknown. The result is often clear: fear, frustration, and unhealthy control issues.

The choice is clear, but it can only be made in faith. It means \_\_\_\_\_ of your life to the Author of Life (Matthew 6:33,34).

## SESSION TWO

2.1 D) \_\_\_\_\_

Many people today take available jobs simply because they have never been \_\_\_\_\_ how to make career decisions. Sadly, few in our society offer a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ how to make wise career decisions.

The world's values about work (materialism, pride, control) overwhelmingly seem to rule our own perceptions on work.

It should be clear that any program of career guidance must be built on a solid foundation - a foundation of Truth.

### 2.1 E) Faulty Foundations

In the absence of a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ model, most people base their career choices and planning on \_\_\_\_\_ foundations.

#### Eight Faulty Foundation Examples

- Securing the easiest or first job offered
- Money as the prime motivator
- Job title or company prestige
- Power, control, security
- Friends work for organizations
- Following in parent's footsteps and/or fulfilling parent's expectations
- Taking a job just because they can do it
- Depending on a miracle to offset a lack of obedience and understanding of His plan

## Open Discussion: STRUGGLES

What are some of the struggles facing people in the job market today?



## 2.2 Career Struggles

### 2.2 A) Ineffective Educational \_\_\_\_\_

High percentages of university and college students select the wrong courses of study. This results in many of the following outcomes:

- 1) Numerous major changes--nearly 50% of students change their major at least once
- 2) Longer stay in school (avg. 4 yr degree takes 4.5 - 5.5 yrs)
- 3) Overspending of their own, their parents', and taxpayers' money
- 4) Enter the workforce with a heavy burden of debt (avg is \$30k +)

Average cost of a Christian college per year? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Average cost of a state university per year? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*"So if you don't know what to pursue, just study something, and hope to get a job somewhere, someday..."*

– Actual quote by a collegiate advisor

Sound smart?

### 2.2 B) Career \_\_\_\_\_

People are simply in the \_\_\_\_\_ jobs!

American Idol Video Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

## SESSION TWO

### Did you know?

- 50% of all men and women who went to work this morning feel that they are in the wrong career field.
- 52% of IT workers would rather be doing something in the liberal arts.
- Tens of millions of people feel like square pegs in round holes when it comes to work and careers.
- Many feel like prisoners in a career that does not reflect or enhance their God-given design.

### Typical Outcomes When Mismatched

1) Increased \_\_\_\_\_ on families which can result in the following:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a) Anger, frustration, and or depression | c) Job loss                                   |
| b) Poor work quality                     | d) Dual income families and/or part-time jobs |

2) Diminished \_\_\_\_\_ which can be seen through:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| a) Lower motivation                    | d) Poor health/increased absenteeism |
| b) Poor quality work                   | e) Erratic work history              |
| c) Frustration and conflict on the job | f) Implementation of bad ideas       |

Thoughts on Terry Tate: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

3) Loss of \_\_\_\_\_ impact as we:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a) Miss God's calling/assignment           | d) Leave our potential in Christ unfulfilled            |
| b) Become a poor witness in the work place | e) Lose our ability to influence the culture for Christ |
| c) Dishonor God in our work                | f) Fail to meet stewardship responsibilities            |

4) Undeveloped \_\_\_\_\_

The workplace is full of people who are not developing because they are not working according to their Divine Design.

## 2.3 Decision Making Problems

- 1) Many lack problem-solving skills, become frustrated and end up guessing, delaying, or quitting altogether.
- 2) Most people are \_\_\_\_\_ to solve career issues from a biblical perspective.
- 3) Christians often have a worldly view of work and think their career decisions don't really matter to God.

If people don't learn a biblically-based process for finding their vocational calling and making sound career and education decisions they will:

approach their \_\_\_\_\_, view their \_\_\_\_\_, and make their \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ according to the \_\_\_\_\_ values, motivations and methods.

# LIVING BY DESIGN

## THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF WORK

**“It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it.”**

PROVERBS 10:22

The work we do, the career we pursue, and how we nurture and develop the gifts and talents we possess are of \_\_\_\_\_ to God. Since we spend more time in our work than in almost any other endeavor, it must come under the Lordship of Christ and foster growth in our relationship with Him.

**“Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”**

I CORINTHIANS 4:2

### 3.1 The Biblical Purpose and Definition of Work

If stewardship is the wise and prudent management of \_\_\_\_\_ that have been entrusted to us, then biblical stewardship must include the work-related \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ entrusted to us by God.

## LIVING BY DESIGN

Our world is pre-occupied with what is fashionable and trendy. The thirst for “designer products” is consuming another vulnerable generation. Some of the characteristics of designer products are:

- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- more for \_\_\_\_\_

The biggest news our culture needs to know is that we have a “\_\_\_\_\_” who does not engage in mass-production or short-lived work, but creates each human being \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ with a one-of-a-kind design!

**He did this so that He could have a unique, special relationship with each of us—even in our work!**

It is therefore vital for every Christian to have a clear idea of what God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of their life is--of how he \_\_\_\_\_ them.

### 3.1 A) The Battle of Purpose: The \_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. David Drullinger, from Cedarville University described this battle of purpose as the collision between two worlds, the materialist’s and the doxologist’s.

1. The Materialist’s Perspective: What’s in it for \_\_\_\_\_?
2. The Doxologist’s Perspective: What’s in it for \_\_\_\_\_?

## SESSION THREE

3.1 B) The way work is \_\_\_\_\_ also directly influences the purpose of work.

In Webster's Dictionary, work is defined as the following:

- Physical or mental effort or activity directed toward the \_\_\_\_\_ or accomplishment of something True or False?
- To labor or toil; Employment... a job True or False?
- The means by which one earns one's livelihood. True or False?
- Something that one is doing, making, or performing especially as a part of one's occupation, duty or task True or False?

Are these descriptions complete? If not, how does God's perspective differ?

**"Jesus said to them, 'My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working' ...Jesus gave them this answer: 'Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.'"**

JOHN 5:17, 19

**"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."**

MATT 11:28-30

According to God, work is \_\_\_\_\_.

It also encompasses all occupations, \_\_\_\_\_, parenting, \_\_\_\_\_, or Christian work and even avocations through which we can express the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

**It is one of the primary means by which our Creator desires to connect with us and through which we connect with Him and others. He will equip and bless us to do what He's designed us to do!**

## 3.2 Our Model For Work

**“Whoever wants to become \_\_\_\_\_ among you must be your \_\_\_\_\_, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_ as a ransom for many.”**

MATTHEW 20:26-28

**“If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”**

LUKE 9:23

**“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others”**

PHILIPPIANS 2:3,4

The Biblical Picture of Work? \_\_\_\_\_

## 3.3 Six Biblical, Foundational Work Principles

**Principle 1:** The \_\_\_\_\_ of work is God.

**“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**

GENESIS 1:1

**“The Lord God took man and placed him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”**

GENESIS 2:15

Work comes from God. He is the author of true work. It was His idea.

**Principle 2:** All work has \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Colossians 3:17 says, “ \_\_\_\_\_ you do, whether in work or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father, through Him.”**

“Socially, the Reformation struck at society’s dualistic view of work. Just as they saw the church comprised of all people, not just the clergy, so the reformer saw all \_\_\_\_\_ - both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ - both intellectual and manual - as a way of serving God.” - Chuck Colson

“The work of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, in God’s sight, is in no way superior to the work of a farmer laboring in the field or of a woman looking after her home.” – Martin Luther - Reformer

**Principle 3:** Work is part of God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

**“For I know the \_\_\_\_\_ I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, \_\_\_\_\_ to give you hope and a future.”**

JEREMIAH 29:11

**“We are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ for us to do.”**

EPHESIANS 2:10

**“A person’s steps are directed by the Lord. How then can anyone understand their own way?”**

PROVERBS 20:24

God's Plan Video Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Principle 4:** Work is a stage for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

We need to understand the vital fact that our work is a platform for ministry.

**Matthew 28:19 says, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."**

**Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."**

**Principle 5:** Our work needs to be \_\_\_\_\_.

Christians are to be excellent in their work in order to glorify God. God wants us to rise above mediocrity in our vocation. Excellence comes from development of our God-given talents.

"If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or as Beethoven composed music. He should sweep streets so well that all the host of heaven and earth will pause and say, 'Here lived a great sweeper who did his job well.'"

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Psalm 16:3 refers “to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.”**

**Proverbs 22:29 says, “Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.”**

“ \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ were shunned as being deadly sins. In fact, Christians began to view work in terms of \_\_\_\_\_ to others and to society, and realized that, in God’s eyes, all work has dignity, deserves respect, is worthwhile, and is an \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ’s love. This brought about what is commonly called ‘the Christian work ethic.’” – Chuck Colson

**Principle 6:** God is the final \_\_\_\_\_ on our work.

We need to dedicate our work to God and depend on Him to give us the strength and resources to do each job.

**“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work.”**

1 CORINTHIANS 3:11-13

# LIVING BY DESIGN

## CAREER DIRECT® GUIDANCE SYSTEM

Get to know Crown Financial Ministries' CAREER DIRECT® career guidance tool!

### 4.1 How is the Career Direct® approach different?

- It teaches a process \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is a process that works over the \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is not only practical; it is also biblical with \_\_\_\_\_ applications for a person's life.
- It can be used again and again as the work \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ situations change.

### 4.2 How does Career Direct® help clients?

- It removes \_\_\_\_\_, emotionalism.
- It helps manage career direction and progression.
- It encourages \_\_\_\_\_ with their God-given gifts and resources.
- It gives guidance on which talents and skills to develop and sharpen in an ever-changing culture.

## SESSION FOUR

- Highlights the four key areas of a person's design in the comprehensive Detailed Report:

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_

### 4.3 What is the Career Direct® process?

- Prayerfully seek God's \_\_\_\_\_ for help as you begin the process.
- Connect with a Career Direct® Consultant to get your client dashboard registered.
- Take the online assessment.
- Meet with your Career Direct® Consultant to work through your Detailed Report.
- \_\_\_\_\_ career fields and occupations that align all four areas of your design using O\*NET and other resources.
- Decide on a major course of study compatible with your design and career field choice.
- Become a life-long learner in this field and work with excellence.
- Take Career Direct® again if significant things have changed in your life.

At Crown Financial Ministries, we believe that \_\_\_\_\_ your strengths and natural abilities can help you \_\_\_\_\_ God's \_\_\_\_\_ for your life.

*"During the many years I have been counseling families on their finances, I frequently observed people in career fields that didn't match their talents and abilities. It concerned me that so many people were not aware of their strengths and, therefore, were not being good stewards of their talents. This resulted in my vision for what is now Career Direct®."*

Larry Burkett (1939-2003)

# LIVING BY DESIGN

## ANSWER KEY

### SESSION 1

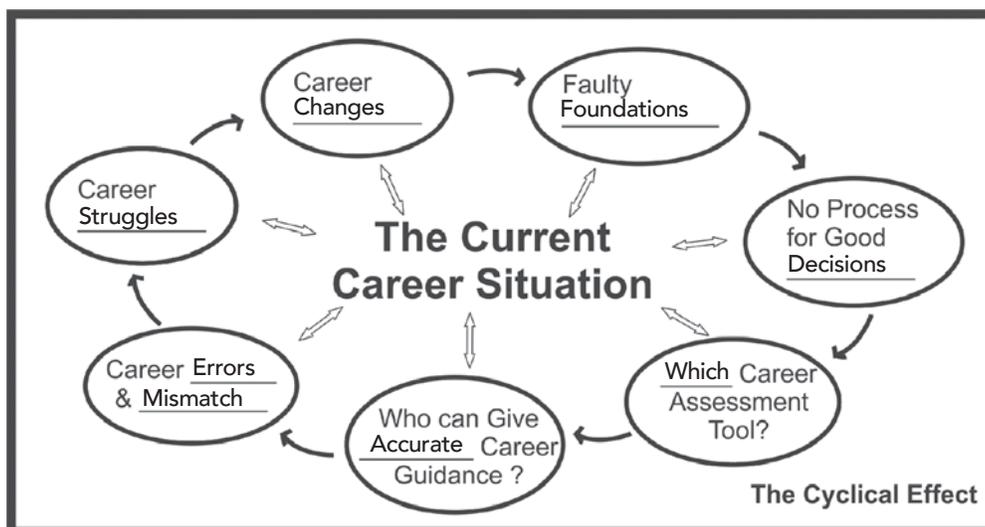
#### 1.1 Introduction

Design follows me  
clear, solid, right  
time, effort, commitment, faith  
process  
guidance  
process  
results

### SESSION 2

#### Introduction-Unhappiness in Work

divine design  
call of God  
spiritual nature  
biblical view  
divine calling  
secular view  
we are workers  
God's nature  
means to an end  
kind of life  
imposed on man



## SESSION 2 *CONTINUED*

### 2.1 A) Materialism (Greed)

higher income  
happiness  
money  
I, I

### 2.1 B) Pride

world thinks  
burn ourselves out  
not naturally  
heart  
Tractor, Mercedes  
impossible to be excellent

### 2.1 C) Lack of Trust (Faith)

God is sufficient  
gain control  
independent (protected)  
no security  
Achieving, independence, control  
returning control

### 2.1 D) Ignorance

taught  
sound plan  
teaching people

### 2.1 E) Faulty Foundations

career decision making  
faulty

## SESSION 2 *CONTINUED*

### 2.2 A) Career Guidance

>\$40,000  
>\$20,000

### 2.2 B) Career Mismatching

wrong  
stress  
productivity  
spiritual  
potential

### 2.3) Decision Making Problems

not trained  
future  
work  
career choices  
world's

## SESSION 3

vital interest

### 3.1 The Biblical Purpose and Definition of Work

resources  
gifts, skills, strengths  
mass-produced  
short-lived  
show  
Designer GOD  
personally, individually, uniquely  
plan, purpose  
designed

#### 3.1 A) The Battle of Purpose: The Materialists vs. Doxologists

Me  
God

#### 3.1 B) The way work is defined also directly influences the purpose of work

production  
relational  
homemaking  
ministry  
love, gifts

### 3.2 Our Model For Work

great, servant  
to serve  
give His life  
Christ Jesus

## SESSION 3 *CONTINUED*

### 3.3 Six Biblical, Foundational Work Principles

origin  
meaning, dignity  
Whatever  
work  
sacred, secular  
monks, priests  
plan  
plan, plans  
prepared, advance  
ministry, witness  
excellent  
Idleness, vanity, waste  
service  
expression  
authority

## SESSION 4

### 4.1 How is the Career Direct® approach different?

based on truth  
long haul  
spiritual  
environment, personal

### 4.2 How does Career Direct® help clients?

guesswork  
good stewardship  
Personality  
Interests  
Skills / Ability  
Values

### 4.3 What is the Career Direct® process?

guidance  
Research  
identifying  
discover  
path



LIVING BY  
**DESIGN**  
SEMINAR



**CROWN™**  
*Do Well*