



CED

**Christian Economic
Development Network**

Theology of Business and Work

September 17, 2019



Today's Agenda

- Introduction
- Theology of Business: JoAnn Flett
- Theology of Work: Ryan Ray
- Q&A
- Closing



CED

Christian Economic
Development Network

Our Purpose

The CED Network is a community where Christ-centered organizations and individuals can share best practices, learn from each other's challenges, and encourage each other in our pursuits of transformational economic development.

Our Beliefs

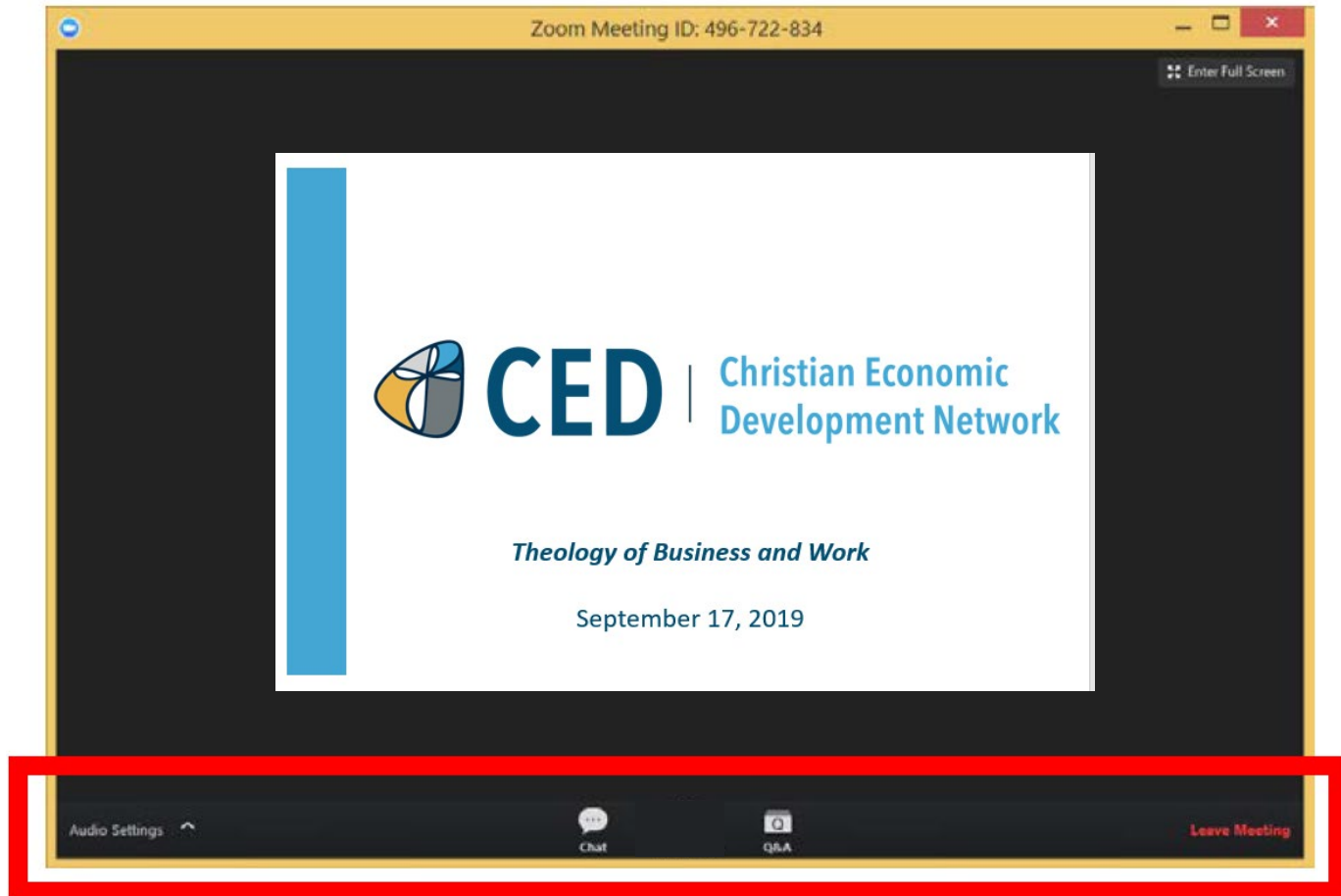
We're motivated by Christ's love for us (1 John 3:1, 4:19-21), Christ's response to those in need (Psalm 113:7-8, Luke 4:17-19), and the desire to see His Kingdom flourish here on earth (Matthew 6:9-10).

www.CEDNetwork.org

Tips for Zoom

Throughout the webinar, please submit your questions using the Q&A function

After the webinar ends, a survey will open. We value your feedback!



Why does a Theology of Business and Work matter?

CED Network participants' activities

Financial services & savings groups

Community & church partnership for economic development

Agricultural development

Business & entrepreneurial development

Challenge

Many people face difficulties in accessing economic opportunities through business & work

Theology of Business & Work

Business & meaningful work are key parts of God's design for how people experience flourishing

Worldview

God desires all people to flourish spiritually, relationally, and economically

Today's Speakers



JoAnn Flett

*Organizational Consultant for
Partners Worldwide*

*Board of directors for Capital
for Good and the Accord
Network*



Ryan Ray

President & CEO

Jobs for Life



Theology of Business

JoAnn Flett

Organizational Consultant, Partners Worldwide

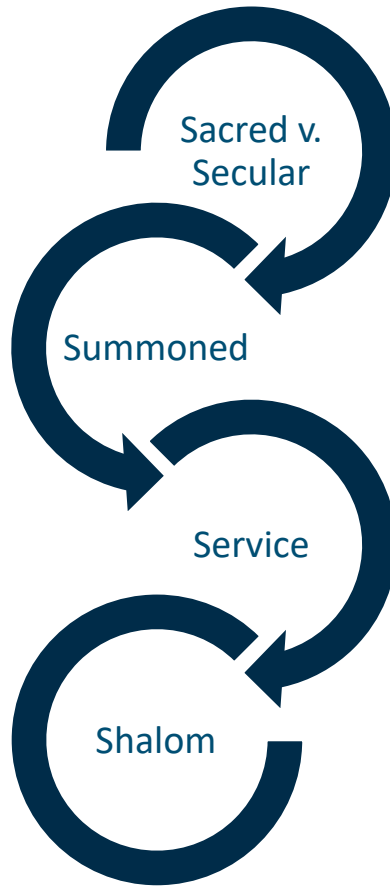
Board of directors for Capital for Good and the Accord Network



Introduction

- What is a theology of business?
- Elements of calling
- Elements of purpose
- A sense that we are summoned to serve God
- A sense that we are to participate in Kingdom building work

Business is a calling



Noble Calling

“Business is, bar none, the best real hope of the poor. And that is one of the noblest callings inherent in business activities: to raise up the poor.” (Novak, 1996, p. 37).

Summoned by God

“If one were *called* to business that person would not only be allowed to work in an enterprise as an acceptable human occupation, but actually *summoned by God* to this work to fulfill God’s will and purpose.” (Stevens, p. 21).



Three elements of a call

Calling involves *belonging* to God (a relationship), *being* (a way of life) and *doing* (serving God and God's purposes).

- R. Paul Stevens (pp. 21-22).

Business = “to create” and “meaning”

- Business is a way of creating meaning for human beings



Frederick Hart's ex nihilo



What are the purposes of work?

- E.F. Schumacher offers us three purposes of human work:
 1. To provide necessary and useful goods and services
 2. To enable everyone of us to use and thereby *perfect* our gifts like good stewards
 3. To perfect gifts in service to, and in cooperation with others, so as *to liberate ourselves from inborn egocentricity.*

The Christian in business

“What would happen if Christians in business understood their day-to-day work— analyzing spreadsheets, making sales calls, preparing a branding campaign, purchasing supplies, tracking inventory—**as God’s work**? Work that contributes to the call that God gave to his people at creation. Work that has part in God’s ministry of reconciliation.” (Van duzer, p. 199).



Concluding thought...

“Business is a demanding vocation, and one is not good at it just being in it, or even by making piles of money. The bottom line of a *calling is measured by pain, learning, and grace.*” (Novack, p. 14).

Resources

- Novak, M. (1996). *Business as a calling: Work and the examined life*. New York, NY: The Free Press.
- Stevens, R. P. (2006). *Doing God's Business: Meaning and Motivation for the Marketplace*: Eerdmans.
- Van Duzer, J. (2010). *Why business matters to God: And what still needs to be fixed*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Schumacher, E. F. (1979). *Good work*. New York, NY: Harper & Row.



The Dignity of Work

What Scripture tells us about God's design for work

Ryan Ray & Alex Ford

Jobs for Life



What The Whole World Wants

Gallup World Poll (beginning 2005):
3 billion+ people / 160+ countries

10 years in, they discovered everyone wants...

A GOOD JOB!

Source: gallup.com

We Were Created To Work

Then God said, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our Likeness.”
So God created man in His own image,
He created him in the image of God; He
created them male and female.

Genesis 1:26-27



We Were Created To Work

The Lord God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.

Genesis 2:15



The Value of Work

We were created to work—work is a blessing!

We worship God through our work.

We serve our family and meet our needs through work.

We love our neighbors through work.

A Lack of Work Can Lead To...





Obstacles to Work:

Criminal Background

Substance Abuse

Anxiety / Fear

Lack of Experience

Housing / Health Issues

Debt

Gaps in Employment

Family Situations



A Distorted View of Work

Unemployment

3.7%

Underemployment

7.2%

Disengagement

80%

Numbers represent U.S stats only. Source: gallup.com

Redeeming Our View of Work

Lack of Work

Obstacles to Work

**Our Distorted
View of Work**

**God's Design
for Work**



Thriving At Work

How can
we **THRIVE**
at work?

TRUST

HEALTH

RELATIONSHIPS

IMPACT

VALUE

ENGAGEMENT



Questions?

Please submit your questions using the Q&A function



Join us October 24-25 in Arlington, VA!

Summit: Thursday, October 24
Collaborating for the Kingdom:
Strategies for working with the
Church in economic development

Workshop: Friday, October 25
Collaborating for the Kingdom:
Methods and metrics for
evaluating collaboration

Visit www.cednetwork.org for details & to register

Early bird pricing ends September 21



Thank you!

*Please share your feedback in the survey that
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