



DO WHAT YOU LOVE AND YOU'LL NEVER WORK A DAY IN YOUR LIFE !?

A lot of people accept this saying as true and repeat it approvingly. But is it true?

Most people love doing things like sleeping in, lounging at the beach, watching TV and movies, attending sporting and other events, eating, and so on. Some people like to boat, fish, or play golf or hike in the woods. Are there jobs that pay people to do these things? Not really. There are some jobs that may allow or incorporate elements of these things, but even a sports writer, who may get to watch sporting events, has to write them up and watch them in the first place with an eye to doing this. Likewise, there are jobs that involve being on the beach or in the woods or in kitchens and restaurants but such jobs entail lifeguarding or picking up trash or cooking or serving others and so on. It's not just "doing what you love." Fishing for a living is not at all like fishing for fun, just as professional golfers or game wardens are not golfing or being in the woods enjoying themselves. They have to win the match or catch the poachers and so on.

If someone just "does what they love" they are not working. For working also means, even if you are like the 20th Century cartoon character whose job was testing mattresses (by sleeping on them each night), you still have to report for work whether you like it or not and satisfy your bosses in some way that you are doing a good job. Reportedly, the Serta mattress company (and presumably others) now use dummies outfitted with pressure sensors for this task.

It's not absolutely impossible to "do what you love" and get paid for it, but one would have to love doing something that just happened to produce some product or service, the marketing and sale of which was up to someone else. For example, if your singing in the shower – or doodling on scraps of paper – could be recorded without your even knowing or at least caring about it and if it was so good that people would pay to get it, then the saying about "never working a day in your life" might apply. But otherwise not working is for people who don't need to or are unable to work.

So why is this saying so widely accepted as great wisdom? Why is it so confidently – and even enthusiastically – offered to children and young adults who are just beginning their independent lives, much of which will necessarily be devoted to working for a living? We know that many beliefs and sayings are not true. Many times this is because people wish the beliefs and sayings were. When they are stated well people find them positive and inspiring. Often, they cover up or help to soothe the unpleasant realities of life.

We Freethinkers can most often easily recognize false beliefs and sayings when they include supernatural or theological themes or elements. So, for example:

"God loves you!"

"If you're good (or believe X, Y and Z) then you'll go to heaven!"

"Your misfortune (poverty, cancer, etc) can be overcome by praying to God!"

"Your loved one who has died has gone to a better place! And you will see them again!"

"If you're good you'll be reincarnated into a much happier life!"

"If you're really good then you'll achieve nirvana and merge into the divine!"

Obviously, to question or doubt such statements may provoke resentment, contempt, or worse, depending on the audience. But even doubt over "non-religious" sayings and beliefs such as about never having to work if you "do what you love," is likely to get doubters labeled as pessimists, cynics or otherwise inclined to annoy and offend. Still, if our interest is in the truth, then we should be "equal opportunity doubters" and look for deeper reasons for the popularity of false beliefs and sayings, whether they seem "religious" or not.

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In the case of “doing what you love,” it is not hard to see what is going on. The reality of life in the modern age is that most people must work for a living. Specifically, they must work at something that produces goods or services that others want or need and that can be traded – through the exchange medium of money – with others who have produced what they want and need. Only then, with the time and energy that remains, can people “do what they love.” If it were possible for people generally to “do what they love” and get paid for it, they would not so readily quit their jobs when they win the lottery, receive a large inheritance or qualify for a comfortable pension. But none of this is especially inspiring or uplifting. We would rather not think about it.

But as when atheists are falsely accused of denying that life has any meaning at all, to reject the “doing what you love” aphorism is not to hold that everything about work is miserable and hateful. Indeed, it is possible – and desirable and wise – to say that, although the nature of work is that it makes demands on us that can be inconvenient, irritating, frustrating and even infuriating, that in our work we should also strive to find that which is satisfying, enlightening, and perhaps even ennobling. And if we have coworkers we should try to help them do the same while we treat them with the dignity and respect that others always deserve. This is simply a part of a rational approach to life and its realities that follows from Epictetus’ observation that “It is not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters.” Or, as Shakespeare put it: “There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.” We could even restate the saying we began with in this way: “Whatever work you must do, part of it must be to find something to love in it.”

**PLANNED FOR NEXT MONTH:
 “THE RESPONSIBILITY
 TO BE REASONABLE”
 >>> Sunday, October 6th, 2013 <<<
 SHERATON GRAND DFW AIRPORT
 SE CORNER OF 114 AND ESTERS**

**YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE
 NTCOF ARE NEEDED, APPRECIATED,
 AND TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!!**

All NTCOF events can be found through our website calendar , or through our meetup page, from which you can RSVP, at: - www.meetup.com/church-of-freethought - JOIN THE NTCOF MEETUP GROUP !!!

Social Luncheon: Today, immediately after our Service, join us for lunch and discussion at the Golden Corral Buffet and Grill in Grapevine, located just across from the Grapevine Mills Mall, at 2605 E. Grapevine Mills Circle, phone (972) 874-7900. To reach Golden Corral from the Sheraton, cross over the freeway and make a left onto John W. Carpenter Freeway (114) going west. Then take the first exit RIGHT onto International Parkway (121), then Grapevine Mills Parkway exit. Turn LEFT on Stars and Stripes Way, continuing on to E. Grapevine Mills Circle.

Freethought Salon: Get together to discuss today’s service topic or other conundrums of interest for Freethinkers. Most Sundays, over breakfast, at the Hilton Vineyard in Grapevine beginning 10:30 AM; see the meetup site! (May 12th at Jason’s on MacArthur!)

Game Night: The regular game night crew meets nearly every Friday night at the IHOP on 2310 Stemmons Trail (I-35), near Northwest Highway (Loop 12). Plan to arrive at about 7:30 PM, and stay late playing Risk, Rummikub, and other fun games!

Secular Singles: Freethinkers have met their life-partners through the Secular Singles group. Check the meetup site for the next date, time and location!

**“The gods had condemned Sisyphus to ceaselessly rolling a rock to the top of a mountain, whence the stone would fall back of its own weight. They had thought with some reason that there is no more dreadful punishment than futile and hopeless labor.”
 - Albert Camus (1913-1960)**



DFWCOR

Dallas-Fort Worth Coalition of Reason

The North Texas Church of Freethought
 The Fellowship of Unbelievers

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