

- Beware creeping idolatry - that is where non-Christians will always go
- Build relationships – seek play that helps others glorify God
- Variety in mind and body – movement, observation, visual/auditory, panoramic/detail
- Remember eternity – the “Groundhog Day” experience

6 Why church is work, rest, play and none of them!

Church is...

- Hard work
- An anticipation of God’s rest and an place of love
- Something we do just for the joy of it

BUT

Not another leisure activity that we drop in and out of according to mood...

Rather a family we are made part of by God when we become a Christian

Things to read...

Julian Hardyman, *Glory Days*, IVP

William Romanowski, *Eyes Wide Open*, Brazos Press



Work, Rest and Play 3: Play

Andrew Evans

1 What do we mean by play?

- You find you have an unexpected day off work. You are not planning to spend all day in bed. What will you do?

Play is that which we do for the sheer joy and delight of doing it rather than for money or because of obligation to ourselves or others. (Nb overlap with work).

Play is part of our rest – but it is active rest as opposed to passive rest (sleep!).

2 What is the problem we have with play?

Endless opportunities...

And a guilty conscience!...

3 Why should we value play for ourselves?

5 Why some sorts of play are better than others

a) Because we can twist play to lead us into sin

Philippians 4:8

b) Because we are all different

c) Because our work and our play need to be varied

d) Because we must reject the idolatry of perfection AND the idolatry of maximality

e) Top tips for healthy play

- Reject false guilt – your whole life was not designed to be spent in Christian meetings or evangelism
- Play is not sin – but better not to play in a particular way than to play and sin
- Have a hobby – and give it a budget of time and money
- Cultivate thankfulness – “giving thanks” is not just for mealtimes

- a) **Because all rest, including play, is about remembering the character of God – who rests and gives us rest**

Genesis 2:1-3

Read the following passages. What is it that God's rest is celebrating in each case? Why does that have to be expressed through active as well as passive rest?

Exodus 20:8-10

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

- b) **Because God has created a world suitable for us to play in**

- *Read the following verses. What form can false teaching often take? How should we fundamentally think about the world we live in?*

1 Timothy 4:1-5

1 Timothy 6:17

- In what areas of your play do you find it easier/harder to be thankful?

- 4 **How should our play relate to our witness to others?**

- a) **It should teach us that there are always contact points with the world because of common grace**

Matthew 5:44-46

Calvin: "All truth is of God. If an ungodly man has said anything true we should not reject it for it has come from God."

- b) **It should teach them that this world is not all there is to life**

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

- c) **It should teach them that this world was made good by God and that salvation is God's work not ours**

- Taken in the round would you say that non-Christians you know would be able to say that:
 - Common grace means you take an interest in the things they are interested in?
 - They know that for you this world is not all there is?
 - They see that you do not believe in salvation by good works?