

Choose your work carefully

By Jeff “Chief” Urbaniak
COLUMNIST (www.AdviceChief.com)

Young adults occasionally write to me about the pressure their parents put on them when choosing a work career. Quite often parents think they know what’s best for their children or they want their kids to follow suit with a family tradition or business. Despite pressure from parents, I always tell young adults to select the job or profession that will make them most happy or satisfied.

Here’s what I’ve learned about work and why it’s important to choose for yourself:

Work is more than a paycheck to pay bills and enjoy life. Your work makes you who you are because it is where you put your time. We are what we do, and the more we do it, the more we become it. When you give a job your time, you are giving it your consciousness. Eventually it will fill your life with the reality that it presents.

When it comes to work, you have to look beyond the superficial attractions of a particular job or profession and consider what it will require you to do on a daily basis, hour-to-hour, minute-to-minute. Determine if that’s how you’d really want to spend your time on this

earth. If it isn’t, your job will become your prison rather than the platform for your dreams.

You should think of work as a vocation or calling. This means that work should be something that calls to you, giving you a voice to who you are and what you want to say in the world. If you find a vocation, embrace it.

Finding a vocation is not easy though. You can’t really know what it is you want to do by simply just thinking about it. You have to do it and see how it works out for you. You have to let the work take over you until it becomes you or you become it. Only then will you truly be able to determine whether to embrace it or abandon it.

There’s nothing wrong with abandoning a job if it isn’t a fit for you. It is now common for people to have three or more careers during their lifetime. No amount of security is worth the suffering of a life lived chained to a routine that has killed your dreams.

If you’re being pressured to pursue a particular job or career, is your heart really set on that option? Does that style of job fit your talents and personality? Would that type of work make you feel fulfilled? If your answer is no to any of

these questions, then tell others how you feel and why.

If you’re stuck in a job you hate, begin formulating a plan to change jobs without bankrupting yourself. See last week’s Advice Chief column titled “Leaving a job” (www.AdviceChief.com/PastColumns/LeavingAJob.pdf) for additional advice on making such a life-changing move.

If you’re trying to figure out what to do with your life, answer the following question: Is there anything you like doing so much that you can see yourself doing it for free? If so, then do it so well that people would gladly pay you for it. If not, then at least do something you enjoy that pays a decent salary.

To truly thrive in your dream job, though, you have to learn all you can about your work, whether in college, trade school, or from a personal or private teacher, then you must hone your skills, perform in an outstanding manner, and showcase your work in any way you can. Doing these things will pay you great dividends at work and in life. When you reach this status in your work life, you will be truly content. So choose your work carefully.

~ The End ~