

7 Ways Not to Choose a Career

People choose career paths for any number of reasons, not all of them good. If you're motivated by pride, greed or fear, for example, you could find yourself in a career that leaves you unhappy and unfulfilled.

God wired each of us with special skills and interests so that we can do excellent work that glorifies Him. Discovering our unique, God-given attributes is the first step in choosing a rewarding career. Before you take that step, however, it's helpful to eliminate a whole batch of bad reasons to choose a given career field. Here then is a list of ways not to choose a career:

1. Do not choose the first or easiest job you can get.

To choose a job based on its ease is not good stewardship of those God-given talents and abilities that we mentioned earlier (Proverbs 13:4). Your goal should always be to use your strongest talents and abilities in your work.

2. Do not choose a job based on salary.

For many people, money is the primary motivator for choosing a given job or career. It goes against the cultural grain to choose a job based on talents, not salary. It also requires a strong faith in God's guidance and provision. A job chosen because of salary won't be satisfying (Ecclesiastes 5:10). God will supply your needs if you trust Him totally.

3. Do not choose a job based on its title.

Doing what you're good at and what you enjoy is a far better reason to choose a career than selecting a prestigious title and doing the unsatisfying work that accompanies it (Proverbs 12:9).

4. Do not take a job just because management offers it.

Discuss your work-related attributes and interests with your boss to explore areas that would suit you best. You may be better off expanding your current area of responsibility, rather than moving outside of your skills and expertise.

5. Do not choose a career because that's what your parents do.

God created you to be unique. Discover that uniqueness and develop your career plans around it.

6. Do not choose a job to fulfill your parents' dreams.

Parents must avoid steering a child toward a career they desire, but instead toward a career path that best suits the child's God-given talents and abilities.

7. Do not choose a job just because you have the minimum ability to do it.

You have the ability to do many different jobs, but they are not necessarily God's plan for you. Rather, He would have you pursue work that utilizes your strongest skills and attributes.

Now that you know how not to choose a career path, you can begin the process of discovering the type of work that suits you best and the environment where you can excel using the talents God entrusted to you.

There is no better way to begin that process of discovery than by taking Crown's proven assessment, *Career Direct*®. Time and again, people taking the *Career Direct*® assessment are amazed to learn they have strengths and abilities in fields they hadn't considered before. You can begin your journey of self-discovery today at crown.org.



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