

Redeeming Work

“God Created You to Be a Worker like Him”

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:1-3, 15

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Sept. 17, 2017

We so often think of work as a necessary evil or even punishment, but the book of Genesis shows us that it was part of the original paradise God created for us.

I. Work is Not a Curse But a Calling

When you WAKE up every day with the attitude that work is a CURSE, you'll start thinking, if not saying out loud, 'I'm just living for a PAYCHECK.'

A. You Were Designed by God for Work

You were created with work in mind, because you are created in the image of God, and God is a worker. You were designed to work and be fellow workers with God in this world.

We work because we BEAR the image of One who works!

2 Thessalonians 3:10 “If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.”

Your unwillingness to work is no trivial thing, because it is a fundamental violation OF God's creation design for men and women.

You're not just opting out of work. You're resisting and pushing away from God's good design for you. And that means you will not be happy, and you will not feel free.

It is the book of Genesis that shows us how God set us apart from every other creature in the universe. Human beings are the ONLY ones explicitly given a job. God called them to 'subdue' and 'have dominion,' or rule the earth.

If God designed you for work and put it in our DNA to be workers like Him then you will never experience the joy and freedom and sense of purpose you think you will outside of that.

Human beings are guilty of thinking that real freedom is found in the complete absence of any constraints, but real freedom is never found in the absence of restrictions. It's found by submitting to the right ones, those that fit with the realities of your own nature and how you were created.

B. Your Work Matters to God Regardless of How Important the World Thinks It Is

The term 'secular' is defined as an attitude or an activity or thing that has no religious or spiritual basis, but there's nothing on this planet that God isn't ruling over. Everything that a believer touches and uses, in a way that honors God, is no longer secular.

Every Christian has a divine calling to work in their part of God's World using the gifts that He gave them to redeem what has been broken and twisted by sin.

We need to STOP thinking in terms of good vs. bad and START thinking about good vs. REDEEMABLE.

We are instruments in the Redeemer's hand to bring about redemption and not just by preaching the Gospel on our lunch break but by doing excellent work in between those breaks.

II. Work is Not Your Identity But a Way to Glorify God and Serve Others

Work is not a curse, it is a calling. Work is also not your identity. It is a means by which you can glorify God and serve others.

A. You Glorify God When You Do Any Kind of Excellent Work

Too many Christians think that God only smiles on them when they are doing "spiritual" things like when you're reading your Bible or praying or sharing your faith with someone. But you need to realize that God smiles on you when you're climbing a telephone pole, teaching in a classroom or closing a business deal, and you're gifted to do it. Whether you're completing a project, wiping a runny nose at home, caring for sick patients, or leading a management team, God smiles, because He gave you those gifts. You are an extension of Him doing work in this world, creating things, bringing order out of chaos, and relieving suffering. God smiles on all of that.

B. You Love and Serve Others When You Do Any Kind of Excellent Work

You can joyfully throw yourself into your work, whether it's inside or outside of the home. And you can take pleasure, and have a sense of dignity in your work, whether it ever platforms you in a public way or just leaves you working silently and quietly in the shadows unsung and unknown to everyone but God.

I Cor. 15:57-58 "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

You'll never get reoriented in the way you think about work until you're first reoriented as to WHO you ARE in relationship to Jesus Christ.