

# Redeeming Work: Your Work Is An Act of Worship and Service

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Sep 24, 2017

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“I haven’t found a corporate environment where their people do not want to serve a truth greater than them.” ~ Jonathan Swartz

James Hunter, *To Change The World: The Irony, Tragedy and Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), 254.

## 1. The “bottom line” of your job isn’t simply an economic one. It’s worship of God and service to others.

**2 Cor. 5:9,10**

<sup>9</sup> So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him.** <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

**Matt 22:36-40**

<sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor** as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

**God’s commands always assume God’s enablement.** If God has commanded us to love Him and love our neighbors, He will enable you to do that as you work.

**What about you?** What would change for you if love for God and love for neighbor was the true “bottom line” on which you focused?

## 2. Don’t clock out of worship when you clock in to work. Worship and work go hand-in-hand!

**Rom. 12:1**

<sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Your work is an act of worship not simply because of what you do, or even how you do it, but why you do what you do. As New Covenant believers, we have the unique privilege of being able to worship anyplace, at anytime, doing anything for the glory of God!

**Col. 3:17,23**

<sup>17</sup> And **whatever you do**, in word or deed, do **everything** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him...<sup>23</sup> **Whatever you do**, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. **You are serving the Lord Christ.**

**1 Cor. 10:31**

<sup>31</sup> So, whether you eat or drink, **or whatever you do**, do all to the glory of God.

**What about you?** Do you think you do a good job of seeing your work as worship of God? What can we pray the Lord does to help you connect your love for God to your job? What is one thing you can change to cultivate a heart of worship in your work?

### **3. Don't downplay the "common grace" of God you can show to others in what you do at work!**

"Common grace is unmerited favor and goodness extended to all persons made in the image of the triune God regardless of their eternal destiny."

Nelson, Tom (2011). *Work Matters: Connecting Sunday Worship to Monday Work* (p. 128). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

**James 1:17**

<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

**Matt. 5:45**

<sup>45</sup> ...For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Even if times to boldly share God's saving grace seem to be few, eagerly & joyfully look for opportunities to extend God's common grace at every opportunity. This is also the mission to which we're called!

**Gal. 6:10**

<sup>10</sup> So then, as we have opportunity, **let us do good to everyone**, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

**1 Thess. 5:15**

<sup>15</sup> See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, **but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.**

**Luke 6:35,36**

<sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, and **do good**, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, **for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.** <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

### **5 Likely Results of a Robust Theology of Common Grace**

- (a) We'll be kinder and more courteous (Titus 3:2).
- (b) We'll be better neighbors to those around us who are hurting (Lk. 10:36,37).
- (c) We'll show Christian love and compassion for others instead of just putting up with them.
- (d) We'll retaliate less and trust God more (Rom. 12:17ff).
- (e) We'll look to connect with others instead of having an "us versus them" mentality.

**What about you?** Do you lack a lifestyle of common grace in your interactions and dealings with others in day-to-day life? Do you just tolerate those you work with, or do make an effort to demonstrate love, compassion and common grace?

### **Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Small Group discussion:**

- (A) Do you clock out of worship when you clock in to work? If so, what can you do to repent and worship in your work?
- (B) What aspect of your job has never crossed your mind to do for the glory of God? Going forward, how will you strive to think differently?
- (C) How does your vocation uniquely allow you to show common grace, and work for the common good of others?
- (D) How do you view the people you work with? Do you treat them with courtesy and respect, or just put up with them because you have to?
- (E) How can you pray for your boss and those you work with? How might praying change the way you view others?