

Experiencing the Fullness of Christ in Our Work

March 24, 2019

In the Beginning God Created..... Gen 1:1

“Let us make man in Our image..... let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” – Gen 1: 26

1. The Design of Work – God’s Plan

- i. In the Beginning, there was work- Gen 1:1
- ii. There is form to God’s work and He delights in His work – Gen1:31
- iii. There is inherent goodness in our work and our work is essential to our well being – Jn 5:17
- iv. The Limits of All Work
 1. God himself rested after work – Gen 2:2
 2. Just as work is not the only important human activity, rest is also not a necessary evil – something we do strictly to “recharge our batteries” in order to continue to work.
 3. God does not need restoration of his strength after creation, yet he rested on the 7th day.
 4. We cannot have a meaningful life without work, but we cannot say that our work is the meaning of our life as well.
 5. **If we make any work the purpose of our life, we have created an idol that rivals God.**

2. The Dignity of Work

- i. Ancient Greek philosophy and even in today’s culture - Work as a Demeaning Necessity
 1. The lower-status work or lower paying work is an assault on our dignity.
 2. One result of such thinking is people pursuing jobs they are not suited for or refusing work they feel is beneath them. That is the prevalent view on many service vocations, i.e. farm hands, cleaning, gardening, concierges, etc.
- ii. Biblical view - Work as a mark of Human Dignity
 1. Work of all kinds evidences our dignity as human beings because it reflects the image of God, the Creator in us.
 2. Of all of God’s creation, only man is set apart and given a job description, an office – Gen 1:26, 2:19, Ps. 8:4-8
 3. We share in doing the things that God has done in creation – bringing order to chaos, creatively building a civilization out of the material of physical and human nature, caring for all that God has made.
 4. **Work has dignity because it is something God does and because we do it in God’s place, as his representatives.**
 5. In Genesis we see God as gardener. In the New Testament we see God as a carpenter.

3. Work as Cultivation

- i. Filling and Subduing the Earth – Genesis 1:28 – “The Cultural Mandate”
 1. For Spiritual Growth – Divine Word to Obey
 2. For Cultural and Creative Development – Physical Work and Mental Stretching
 3. For Growing the Human Grace – Creation of Marriage (Adam and Eve) to “fill the earth”
- ii. Culture Making with God – Cultivating God’s Creation – We are to be as gardeners at our work.