

# Biblical Perspectives of Work



**Men In Christ, ICS  
February 28, 2018**

# Introduction

- × Some people hate to work. Some love to work
- × Some avoid to work. Some work too much.
- × One constant: work must be done
- × Since the Garden of Eden: work for survival  
(Rom 6:23: “*the wages of sin is death*”)
- × Work sets a person's lifestyle (housing, food, belongings' quality, daily schedule, family life, freedom to travel)

# 1. Work is Ordained by God

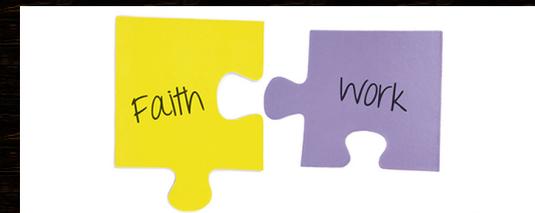
- God worked—6 days of creation: structure & content ([Genesis 1](#))
- Humans are His image: by working we resemble God—potential, plans, creativity
- *Cultivation*: Ruling over and taking care of His creation ([Gen. 1:28, 2:15](#))
- “We are” and “we do”

## 2. Work is for Lifetime

- **Gen 3:19:** *In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.*
- No promise that it should be easy (opposition from the kingdom of darkness)
- Life-long commitment: concerns not only the official work, but also hobbies or other activities

# 3. Work is not a Punishment

- **Ecc 2:24:** *Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.*
- Work should not be a drudgery, but as a gift of fulfillment to life
- Since God created work, there exists a **harmony** between professional and personal life!
  - Time to work and time to rest
    - Faith & Work



# 4. Work Has Three Purposes

A) To provide money or resources to supply the necessities of life

B) To provide satisfaction of doing a job well

C) To serve God

- **Eph 6:6-7:** *Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.*

- “God-pleasers:” spirit of *excellence*

- **Act of worship & love** rather than self-interest: to avoid fruitlessness, pointlessness, selfishness, or idolatry

# 5. Work is Honorable

- **1 Cor 10:31**: *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*
- All professions and all kinds of work (legal and biblically ethical), are honorable
- No dichotomy between sacred and secular work
- Martin Luther: “God is milking the cows through the vocation of the milkmaid.”
- You do not need to be a pastor or a theologian to make a spiritual impact (sanctified work)

# 6. Work as "Common Grace"

- **Matt 5:44-45**: *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*
  - 1) Physical realm: rain for just and unjust (**Matt 5**)
  - 2) Intellectual realm: people are able to progress in science
  - 3) Moral realm: what the law requires is written on their hearts (**Rom 2**)
  - 4) Creative realm: arts—not all things in the world totally evil
  - 5) Societal realm: organizations and structures in human society (**Rom 13**)  
Human government after the fall (Gen 9:6), educational institutions
  - 6) Religious realm: unbelievers can pray and God may answer (**Ps 145:9**)
- Purpose: to give unbelievers hint that God exists (delaying death—**2 Pt 3:9-10**), to demonstrate God's goodness and mercy, justice, and glory
- *Interdependence* of **common** and **special** grace: skilled craftsmen build the churches while unbelievers can benefit from the believer's grace (freedom of USA—13 colonies)

# 7. Work Calls for Obedience

- **Col 3:22:** *Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.*
- Consistency, diligence, and loyalty
- The *real* boss is Jesus Christ. See your job as service to Him
- Employers should treat employees with respect and fairness
- “We work to serve others, not ourselves” (Timothy Keller)

## 8. Work Provides an Opportunity for Witness

- **Matt 5:16:** *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*
- Work manifests a powerful message, both verbal and nonverbal
- Win people by your work example

