

Three Thoughts About Work

Why work?

God created us to work

Genesis 1-2

⁵Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground

Genesis 2:5 (NIV)

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and
put him in the Garden of Eden
to work it and take care of it.

Genesis 2:15 (NIV)

²⁷So God created mankind
in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

²By the seventh day God had finished the *work* he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

³Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Genesis 2:2 (NIV)

Why work?

Jesus reminded us to work

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
²⁰and teaching them to obey everything
I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20a (NIV)

God calls and equips each person UNIQUELY

Exodus 31 / 1 Corinthians 12

¹Then the Lord said to Moses, ²“See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, ³and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— ⁴to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze,

Exodus 31:1-6 (NIV)

⁵to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. ⁶Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you.

Exodus 31:1-6 (NIV)

²“See, I [the Lord] have chosen Bezalel son of Uri,
the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah,
³and I have filled him with the Spirit of God,
with wisdom, with understanding,
with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—
⁴to make artistic designs for work in
gold, silver and bronze, ⁵to cut and set stones,
to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts.

Exodus 31:2-5 (NIV)

¹²Just as a body, though one,
has many parts, but all its many parts
form one body, so it is with Christ.

¹⁴Even so the body is not
made up of one part but of many.

1 Corinthians 12:12-20 (NIV)

¹⁵Now if the foot should say,
“Because I am not a hand, I do not belong
to the body,” it would not for that reason stop
being part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should
say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong
to the body,” it would not for that reason stop
being part of the body.

1 Corinthians 12:12-20 (NIV)

¹⁷If the whole body were an eye,
where would the sense of hearing be?

If the whole body were an ear,
where would the sense of smell be?

¹⁸But in fact God has placed the
parts in the body, every one of them,
just as he wanted them to be.

1 Corinthians 12:12-20 (NIV)

¹⁹If they were all one part,
where would the body be?

²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

1 Corinthians 12:12-20 (NIV)

¹⁸But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, *every one of them*, just as he wanted them to be.

1 Corinthians 12:18 (NIV)

God is responsible for the results

Proverbs 21:31 / 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 / John 21:1-12

31 The horse is made ready
for the day of battle,
but victory rests with the Lord.

Proverbs 21:31 (NIV)

⁶I [Paul] planted the seed, Apollos watered it,
but **God has been making it grow.**

1 Corinthians 3:6-9a (NIV)

⁷So neither the one who plants
nor the one who waters is anything,
but only God, who makes things grow.

1 Corinthians 3:6-9a (NIV)

⁸The one who plants and the one who waters
have one purpose, and they will each
be rewarded according to their own labor.

⁹For we are co-workers in God's service;

1 Corinthians 3:6-9a (NIV)

⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but
God has been making it grow.

⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters
is anything, but **only God, who makes things grow.**

⁸The one who plants and the one who waters
have one purpose, and they will each
be rewarded according to their own labor.

⁹For we are co-workers in God's service;

1 Corinthians 3:6-9a (NIV)

⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but
God has been making it grow.

⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters
is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

⁸The one who plants and the one who waters
have one purpose, and *they will each
be rewarded according to their own labor.*

⁹For we are co-workers in God's service;

1 Corinthians 3:6-9a (NIV)

⁴Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. ⁶He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

John 21:4-6 (NIV)

⁹When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.”

¹¹So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.

¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.”

John 21:9-12 (NIV)

Three Thoughts About Work

- God created us to work, [Genesis 1-2]
and Jesus commanded us to do work [Matt 28:19]
- God uniquely calls and uniquely equips
each person's work. [Exodus 31 / 1 Corinthians 12:12-20]
- God, not us, is responsible for the results of our work
[Proverbs 21:31 / 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 / John 21:1-12]