

God's Intention for Our Work

Work, whether paid or unpaid, fills much of our time. Yet how many of us would say we're fulfilling God's calling on our lives through our work? What if it feels like a curse or a necessary evil? Is it work if we enjoy it? Studying the opening chapters of Genesis reveals the place work holds in God's original design, helps us understand the effects of sin on our work, and provides perspective for how we understand and perform our work to faithfully live into God's original intention for our work.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What kind of work do you do on a day-to-day basis? What is your attitude toward your work or how do you feel about the work you do? When you describe it to others, what type of language do you use?
- How does your faith relate to your work?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [God's Intention for Our Work](#)

READ [Genesis 1:26-31](#), [Genesis 2:15-25](#), [Genesis 3:14-21](#), [Genesis 4:19-22](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Does knowing that work is not just the result of sin but instead a part of life ordained by God as part of his created design change your attitude toward work? Why or why not?
- Why do you think recognizing your identity as an image bearer of God is important for understanding the role of work in your life?
- How do the cultural mandate ([Genesis 1:28](#)) and the call to cultivate and care for creation relate to the work you do on a daily basis?
- Consider how your current work, whether paid or unpaid, contributes toward the betterment of human society and creation. What effect does the way you do your work have on that contribution? How do you think the fall into sin has affected your work?
- While discussing the cultural mandate in his book *Engaging God's World; A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning, and Living*, Cornelius Plantinga reminds us that "the creation story doesn't end with a work order. The first account of creation stops after a seventh day...our work is important, but not indispensable. Our work is important, but so is rest from work." What does this idea add to your understanding of and perspective on work and on God's call for us to work?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Psalm 8](#), [Matthew 22:35-40](#), [Colossians 3:23-24](#)

CONCLUSION

Reflect on these statements from [*Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*](#):

*Made in God's image
to live in loving communion with our Maker,
we are appointed earthkeepers and caretakers
to tend the earth, enjoy it,
and love our neighbors.
God uses our skills
for the unfolding and well-being of his world
so that creation and all who live in it may flourish.
- Our World Belongs to God, st. 10*

Write a prayer in response to what you've learned about work and vocation, include words of confession, gratitude, petition, and praise.

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