

# Work, Calling, and God's Providence

How often do you hear the word *vocation* or think about God's calling on your life? Do you think about how God provides for the needs of his people? Whether you view your work as a calling from God or not, join us as we discuss 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4:16 to help us better understand the relationship between our work and our calling and ultimately show us what this has to do with God's providence for his world.

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

- What are your God-given gifts or skills?
- How do you define and describe vocation?



**LISTEN TO THE EPISODE:** [Work, Calling, and God's Providence](#)

**READ** [1 Corinthians 12](#), [Ephesians 4:16](#)

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- Reflect on the conversation in segment 2 about Martin Luther's "stations in life." What are your current stations in life? Is it possible to have more than one calling?
- Whether you are employed, unemployed, retired, or stay-at-home, describe the work you do in terms of its service to God, what it means to do your work well, and how it shows love to your neighbor (keep in mind the story of the Good Samaritan and Christ's definition of neighbor).
- How can we restore dignity to the people and jobs that our culture seems to have deemed undignified?
- We live in a culture that encourages the pursuit of passion and following dreams. As Christians, we desire to do what God wants us to do. Frederick Buechner defines vocation this way: "*Vocation is where your deep gladness meets one of the world's deep needs.*" How does this definition of vocation unite the ideals of both the wider culture and the desire of Christians? How does it expand culture's perspective? Where does it help you see God's providence in your life and in the lives of others?

**RELATED PASSAGES** for further study

[Acts 18:1-4](#), [Genesis 50:19-21](#), [Colossians 3:12-17](#)

## CONCLUSION

After reflecting on your work, vocation, and God's providence, consider what words of confession, thanksgiving, or submission you need to offer to God in prayer. For guidance, consider these prayers written by Deborah Haarsma and published in the [June 2004 edition of \*Reformed Worship\* magazine](#):

Lord, we confess that we have stored up treasure on earth, placing our trust in our possessions and our money. We have made work into our master, letting work invade the time you give us to rest, to fellowship with others, and to worship. At other times we “make do” and “get by” in our work, rather than working with our whole heart. We have been overwhelmed by worry and stress, forgetting to place our work in your hands and to trust you for the harvest. We have resented our bosses, unfairly judged our coworkers, and lorded it over those we supervise. Forgive all of our sins because of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Enabled by Christ's love, we shall endeavor to make each day's work a sacrament, work and worship interwoven. We will work with all our heart as unto the Lord, knowing that it is Jesus Christ we serve. O Master Workman, cleanse our work from selfishness, impatience, and desire for recognition. Forgive us, train us, and use us for your glory. Amen.

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