

The Supremacy of Christ Over Work

Gen. 1:26-28, 2:15-17, 3:17-19; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; Eph. 2:4-10

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Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Park Cities Presbyterian Church

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Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

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

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 2:15-17

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁷ And to Adam he said,
"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Ephesians 2:4-10

⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Table Discussion Questions:

1. Do you live an integrated or divided life? Are there ways you separate your work from every other part of your life (work vs. recreation, work vs. family, work vs. faith, etc.)?
2. How has God given you dominion? What are the gardens that God has given you to cultivate? What unique tools, resources, and gifts has God given you to “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it”?
3. What is a steward? What does it look like to steward the dominion that God has entrusted to you?
4. According to the Bible, why is work hard?
5. In what ways has your work become an idol? How does the idolatry of work impact every other part of your life? What might it look like to worship through work rather than to worship work?
6. Does God care about your life as a worker? Where have you seen redemption in your work?
7. How has God called you to the “ministry of reconciliation”? What opportunities does your particular calling give you to be an “ambassador for Christ”?