

Common Purpose
Work as Worship

Introduction

- God stirred me to examine purpose – for every human being; not just in church but in life
- These three things: worship, communion, redemption – are in our common purpose.

WORSHIP – ‘Offering to God what belongs to Him’

wor•ship (Merriam-Webster’s)

- 1. : to honor or reverence as a divine being or supernatural power
- 2. : to regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, or devotion

Work as worship?

★ The only way to really see God’s will is to either go to Genesis or Revelation – unspoiled beginning or redeemed end.

In the Garden

- *Gen. 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*
- *Gen. 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to tend and keep it.***
 - ‘tend’ = “work”
 - abad (aw·bad)
 - ¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “**Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.** ¹⁸ Both **thorns and thistles it shall ⁶bring forth for you,** And you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread (Gen. 3:17-19)*
- There is a curse now in *doing* our work; not in work *itself*.
- That has become part of God’s plan of redemption (deal with later).
- Mostly translated “serve”
- Adam & Eve served God by cultivating the garden

As ‘unto the Lord’

Col. 3:22-25 *Servants, do what you’re told by your earthly masters. And don’t just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you’ll get paid in full when you come into your*

inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ. The sullen servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible. Being a follower of Jesus doesn't cover up bad work. (The Message)
see also Eph. 6:5-9; I Tim. 6:1; Tit. 2:9; I Pet. 2:18

We were never 'called' to 'make a living'!!!

Matt. 6:19-21 19 *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Matt. 6:28-33 ²⁸ *"So why do you **worry** about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not ³arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For after all these things the Gentiles (unbelievers) seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you*

Jesus is really dealing with idolatry in both forms – covetousness (v. 19-21 & worry (v. 28-33) . That's why He's so strong here.

Misdirected worship

*Isa. 2:8 - Their land is also full of idols; **They worship the work of their own hands,** That which their own fingers have made.*

*Rom. 1:24,25 ²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and **worshiped and served the creature** rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

(Boston building)

"If it's not fun..."

"the music box"

*I have seen what is best for people here on earth. They should eat and drink and **enjoy their work**, because the life God has given them on earth is short. Eccl. 5:18 NCV*

- Is your work 'redeemed'? Is it an offering unto God?
- Trusting God with your work

Next week:

How to tell if your work is worship or not.
Does God want you to succeed?