



WORK PT.1: CULTURE

If you have a pattern of having someone share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/lately with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life and/or the grace in your lives.

OPENING COMMENT

How do you view your work? As your identity? As a necessary evil? As something inherently bad or inherently good? Roughly 50% of your waking hours on a work day are dedicated to work (and more than that if you're a parent of young children...or own a smart phone). Do you understand the connection between your work and your faith? How does God view work? What does the Bible teach us about work? Welcome to our WORK & REST Sermon Series where we are going to explore all of that. Weeks 1 + 2 will help us explore what Scripture says about *Work* in the Old and New Testaments and help us approach *Work* Christianly, while Weeks 3 + 4 will help us explore that ever elusive thing called *Rest*.

READ THE TEXT: 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."

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

²⁸And 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."



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share brief summaries with each other about how your work is going. In light of the Gallup Poll, would you put yourself in the “engaged in your work” (16%); “disengaged” (70%); or “actively disengaged” (14%) category?
2. Have you found it challenging to connect your faith with your work (the paid or unpaid labour that you consistently do)?
3. When it comes to your work, which danger do you relate to most? You wrap up your identity in your work (make an idol of it); You work too much and prioritize it over things you should not (workaholic); You disdain work or thing too little of it (view it as a necessary evil, a bad thing); You are not hard-working, cut corners, avoid work (laziness, apathy).
4. Discuss why it is significant that the Bible begins with God *working* (the Hebrew word for ordinary human labour) and creating people in His image to *work*.
5. Genesis 1:28: “God said...fill the earth and subdue it”. This is known as “The Cultural Mandate”, which is the contributing to of building cities and civilizations. How do you see what you do contribute to that?
6. We were made in the *image of God* and tasked with *ruling, reigning, having dominion* in the world. Does how you *rule* make the world a more garden-like place? In other words, does it contribute to human flourishing? To sustainability and good for the earth? Is it goof for you, your community and culture, and world?
7. What are the forms of work or way of doing them that does not contribute to flourishing in life and culture?
8. N.T. Wright wrote, “*What you do in the present...will last into God’s future... These activities...are part of what we may call building for God’s kingdom.*” Have you considered that the work you do now has ramifications for the age to come? Why is it significant when it comes to our work?
9. Dwell on the work of Christ together and how it changed everything in this life and the life to come.

CONCLUSION

The biblical creation account stands in contrast to the rest. It begins with God working — hands in the dust and dirt — fashioning humanity and the whole world. God works, made us in His image to work, and sent Jesus to do the greatest work of all so that our *ruling* here and now would be *training for reigning* in the age to come. May we give ourselves to good, hard work.



SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in your work.
- Ask the group how they intend to get involved in the planting of new campuses in the coming months (going, staying, serving, giving, etc.) and pray that God would give us much grace as a church to fulfill the work He has called us to together.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

**We are making a video as a snapshot of our church. We would love to have brief iPhone video footage of your Life Group. Capture something and send it to adamschellenberg@gmail.com via dropbox or Google Drive by June 11.*

