

SESSION 2

Work in a Fallen World



INTRODUCTION

DEFINITION OF AUTHENTIC MANHOOD

Reject _____

Accept _____

Lead _____

Expect _____

CATEGORIES OF WORK

Work: _____

Rest: _____

Recreation: _____

Escape: _____

God is a worker; therefore, we who bear his image are workers.

“Indeed, the Bible does not say we should work one day and rest six, or that work and rest should be balanced evenly — but directs us to the opposite ratio. Leisure and rest are great goods but we can take only so much of them.”

— Tim Keller, *Every Good Endeavor* (p. 38)

Why does work occupy such a significant position in a man’s soul (psyche)?

Man was _____ from the earth and _____ to the earth.

MAN’S CORE CAPACITIES

Pursue

Protect

Provide

WORK UNDER THE CURSE

1. Frustration (Genesis 3:17-19)

2. Impermanence (Genesis 3:19)

3. Idolatry

Instead of turning to God in response to the curse, we look to work to provide a solution to the problems of frustration and impermanence.

HOPE OF THE GOSPEL FOR OUR WORK

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it.)

— Romans 8:18-24

Discussion Questions

1. Who was the primary influence on your understanding of masculinity and/or work? Was that influence positive or negative?

2. What is one way your view of work has been challenged so far in this study?

3. Of the three effects of the curse (frustration, impermanence, and idolatry), which is currently your greatest struggle? Why?

4. Do you have a clear understanding of how the gospel provides encouragement for your work? Where do you need greater clarity?