



ANTHROPOLOGY & HAMARTIOLOGY: MAN & SIN CREATED TO WORK AND FOR COMMUNITY | OCTOBER 11, 2026

DEFINITIONS

Dominion Mandate: God's command for humanity to fill the earth, exercise dominion, and cultivate and develop the resources of creation for the _____ of others and the glory of God

Vocation: A calling through which a Christian performs legitimate _____ as service to the Lord and neighbor

HUMAN BEINGS WERE CREATED TO WORK

Work belongs to God's good _____ for humanity. God gave human beings meaningful work before sin entered the world. Work is therefore not a punishment resulting from the Fall, but an intrinsic part of human life as God intended it (Gen. 2:15; Eccl. 3:13).

Human work flows from our creation in God's image. Humanity was created to exercise dominion under God by cultivating, stewarding, and developing what He has made (Gen. 1:26–28). Work is a consequence and _____ of image-bearing.

The dominion/cultural mandate extends beyond _____. Human beings use the physical and personal resources God has given to produce food, build homes, create art and music, develop technology, organize society, and otherwise cultivate the possibilities placed within creation.

Work is broader than _____ employment. Homemaking, child-rearing, education, artistic creation, volunteer service, and other purposeful activities can all constitute meaningful work. The value of work is not determined by whether it produces a paycheck.

THE FALL DISTORTED WORK, BUT DID NOT DESTROY ITS GOODNESS

The Fall did not introduce work, but it introduced pain, frustration, and futility into work. The ground was cursed, and work that was originally good became characterized by painful _____ (Gen. 3:17–19; Rom. 8:20–21).

Sin also corrupts the worker, distorting both our actions and our _____. Work becomes an arena for characteristic temptations:

- _____: Work can be used to exploit, defraud, or mistreat others (James 5:4–6).
- Laziness: We can refuse/neglect our responsibility to work productively (2 Thess. 3:10–12).
- _____: We can look to work, achievement, wealth, or success for identity and ultimate satisfaction (Ecclesiastes 2:10–11; 4:8).

IN CHRIST, WORK BECOMES VOCATION

Under Christ's lordship, all legitimate work can become Christian _____. Christians do not ultimately work merely for an employer, income, advancement, or personal fulfillment. They work as servants of Christ (Col. 3:23–24).

Scripture does not divide legitimate work into “sacred” and “secular” categories in which ministry is inherently more spiritual than ordinary work. Different Christians have different callings, but _____ work can genuinely be offered to God in obedience and worship.

Christian work has several God-given purposes:

- To _____ God: We should perform our work for God's honor rather than merely for human approval (1 Cor. 10:31).
- To _____ others: Our work enables us to bless our neighbors and share with those in need (Eph. 4:28).
- To _____ for our needs: Work enables us to meet our responsibilities rather than unnecessarily depend upon others (1 Thess. 4:11–12).
- To develop _____ character: Work provides a context for practicing obedience, sincerity, and faithfulness (Col. 3:22).

WORK IS GOOD, BUT NOT ULTIMATE

God's original pattern includes both work and rest. Rest reminds us that God is our Provider and that work is not our _____ concern (Gen. 2:2–3; Ps. 127:1–2).

We must therefore resist both idleness, which rejects God's good gift and responsibility of work, and workaholism, which turns that good gift into an _____. Christ, not our occupation or accomplishments, is the source of our identity and ultimate significance (Col. 3:1–4).

HUMAN BEINGS WERE CREATED FOR COMMUNITY

Human beings were created for meaningful _____ with others. Even before the Fall, God declared that it was “not good” for man to be alone (Gen. 2:18).

The Fall corrupted human community without eliminating our need for it. Sin alienated humanity from God and immediately produced _____ and violence in human relationships (Gen. 3:8, 12; 4:8).

Jesus Christ gathers His people into a new family, and the Holy Spirit creates genuine fellowship among them, centered on their shared life in _____ rather than natural ties (Mark 3:33–35; Acts 2:38–47).

Christian community is one of the ordinary means God uses to _____ His people. Believers are designed to love, serve, encourage, teach, pray for, and build up one another as each member contributes to the growth of the body (Eph. 4:15–16; Heb. 10:24–25).