

1. **Love God** (Genesis 1:27)

- a. Tension: kingdom of God is a pearl and leaven (Matthew 13:33, 44-46).

- b. God must permeate our lives. He is not merely a priority.

2. **Serve others** (Genesis 1:27; cf. Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 16:24).

3. **Responsibly cultivate the earth** (Genesis 1:28): rule and subdue.

- a. Cultural mandate (Genesis 2:15)

Col. 3:17, 23-24—slaves obey your masters as if you were serving Christ

Col. 1:15-17—Jesus is the Creator

Gen. 1:28; 2:15—Jesus is the One who commands us to work

- b. Reformation: vocation, calling.

Luther, *Sermon in his home on Matt. 6:24-34 (1532)*: “To serve God simply means to do what God has commanded and not to do what God has forbidden. And if only we would accustom ourselves properly to this view, the entire world would be full of service to God, not only the churches but also the home, the kitchen, the cellar, the workshop, and the field of townsfolk and farmers. For it is certain that God would have not only the church and world order but also the house order established and upheld. All, therefore, who serve the latter purpose—father and mother first, then the children, and finally the servants and neighbors—are jointly serving God; for so He wills and commands.”

“In the light of this view of the matter a poor maid should have the joy in her heart of being able to say: ‘Now I am cooking, making the bed, sweeping the house. Who has commanded me to do these things? My master and mistress have. Who has given them this authority over me? God has. Very well, then it must be true that I am serving not them alone but also God in heaven and that God must be pleased with my service. How could I possibly be more blessed? Why, my service is equal to cooking for God in heaven!’”

c. All wholesome callings receive an equal reward from God (1 Cor. 7:17-24).

Gerard Manley Hopkins: “To lift up the hands in prayer gives God glory, but a man with a dungfork in his hand, a woman with a sloppail, give him glory too. He is so great that all things give him glory if you mean they should.”

Luther’s Church Postil, 281: “God cannot bear to see anyone neglect the duties of his calling or station in life in order to imitate the works of the saints. If therefore a married woman were to follow Anna in this respect, leave her husband and children, her home and parents in order to go on a pilgrimage, to pray, fast and go to church, she would do nothing else but tempt God, confound the matrimonial estate with the state of widowhood, desert her own calling and do works belonging to others. This would be as much as walking on one’s ears, putting a veil over one’s feet and a boot on one’s head, and turning all things upside down. Good works should be done, and you ought to pray and fast, but you must not thereby be kept from or neglect the duties of your calling and station.”

d. What are your callings? (1 Cor. 5:13; 12:27)

e. Payoff

1) Liberation (1 Cor. 7:17-24; Col. 2:9-10; 1 Thess. 4:11-12)

a) What does your company make possible?

b) What does your role make possible?

2) Lordship (Col. 3:17, 23-24)

a) How does Jesus change how you do your callings?

b) How are you integrating your callings, and Jesus into your callings?

4. **Enjoy Sabbath rest:** unites creation and redemption (Ex. 20:8-11; Deut. 5:12-15)

Figure 11.2: How Redemption Repairs Our Image of God¹

Creation

Gen. 1:26-28	God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created them	Male and female he created them	“Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, and rule...”
This means that humans are properly related to	God	Other Humans	World
Because of this humans are	Religious Beings	Social Beings	Cultural Beings
These aspects of human life should produce	Worship of God	Love for Others	Joyful Work in the World

Fall

Because of the fall, these image-bearing characteristics produce	Idolatry Self-worship	Greed Selfishness	Laziness Sloth or Self-indulgence
The consequences of sin are	Alienation from God → Wrath	Alienation from Others → Hate	Alienation from work → Drudgery

Redemption

When we become Christians we experience	Reconciliation with God	Reconciliation with Our Neighbor	Joyful Resumption of Our Cultural Task
This involves	Acknowledging God’s Lordship	Showing Love to Others	Doing Our Work to the Glory of God
This is suggested in	1 Pet. 2:9	Gal. 6:10, 1 Jn. 4:11	Col. 3:23, 24

¹ Used with permission from Douglas A. Felch, Associate Professor of Theology, Reformed Bible College, who created this chart for his class entitled, “Christian Doctrine.”