

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

The Design & Dignity of Work

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
March 12, 2023



How do we see work in our culture?

- Work defines me.
- Work hinders me.
- Work must serve me.

Genesis 1:26-2:3 (NLT) Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground. ²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” ²⁹ Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. ³⁰ And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life.” And that is what happened. ³¹ Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day. ^{2:1} So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. ² On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

- In the beginning God was working.

“Work is an activity involving mental, physical, or spiritual effort, done to achieve a purpose or result.”

- Work is good and for our good.

John 5:17 (NIV) “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”

- **Humans are commissioned to carry on God’s work.**

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Genesis 2:15 (NLT) “The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.”

“Whenever we bring order out of chaos, whenever we draw out creative potential, whenever we elaborate and “unfold” creation beyond where it was when we found it, we are following God’s pattern of creative cultural development.” Tim Keller Every Good Endeavor

- All kinds of work have dignity.

- The work of Jesus gives us Life.

John 17:1-5 (NLT) “After saying these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. ² For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. ³ And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. ⁴ I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.”

Colossians 3:23-24 (AMP) “Whatever you do [whatever your task may be], work from the soul [that is, put in your very best effort], as [something done] for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [greatest] reward. It is the Lord Christ whom you [actually] serve.”

“What is the Christian understanding of work? It is that work is not, primarily, a thing one does to live, but the thing one lives to do. It is, or it should be, the full expression of the worker’s faculties...the medium in which we offer ourselves to God.” Dorothy Sayers

Big Idea: Rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ as you work diligently to serve God.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Design & Dignity of Work
#1 of 3 - March 12, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at radical ordinary hospitality. How did your action step go? In what ways have you been able to practice hospitality?
- 2) Read Genesis 1:26-2:3. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passage? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us and what does this tell us about God's design and dignity of work? In what ways do we often get this wrong?
- 5) Read John 17:1-5. What was the "work" Jesus came to do? How does this inform our view and understanding of life and work?
- 6) Read Colossians 3:23-24. What does this tell us about how we should approach our work? How does the Gospel free us to work in this way?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this passage? (Take some time for Listening Prayer). How does this passage call on you to change the way you live and work? What aspect of this teaching do you need to pass on to others?



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