

# The Pen in His Hand

## Ephesians 2:10

You are a masterpiece of the Artist, the Creator, you are also the pen in his hand.

“The key thing that distinguishes work from other kinds of activity is that it results in something of value to other people.” (Race and Work, P. 4)

“By working we actually participate in God’s ongoing providence for the human race.” (*Working for our Neighbor*. P. 47)

“All good callings represent concrete and specific ways of serving my neighbor.”

***“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)***

Father God, the artist is making you into a masterpiece: handcrafted, unrushed, messy

**You are the pen in His hand.**

*“This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. These teachings are good and beneficial for everyone.” Titus 3:8 (NLT)*

*“So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NLT)*

*“Unless faith produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.” James 2:17 (NLT)*

*“Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.” James 1:27 (NLT)*

*So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> 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.” Genesis 1:27–28 (NLT)*

*“Father to the fatherless, defender of widows— this is God, whose dwelling is holy.” Psalm 68:5 (NLT)*

If God is an artist, and humans are created in the image of God, then all humans are artists.

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“The institution of work is undeniably one of the chief integrators of persons in our society. It orients our lives, it organizes our time, it puts us in touch with people...a nationwide survey of a cross section of Americans finds that although the vast majority defined work as necessary, done for the sake of money and in itself unenjoyable, over three-fourths would continue working even if they were to receive enough money to live comfortably for the rest of their lives.” (*Working for our Neighbor*. P. 6)

“Unlike the animals, who are unreflectively immersed in their own patterns of behavior, human beings are conscious of what they are doing.” -Carl Marx

“Through work we respond to God’s mandate to humanity that we continue the work of creation by subduing the earth; through work we realize ourselves as image-bearers of God; through work we participate in God’s ongoing, creative activity; through work we follow Christ in his example of redemptive suffering for the sake of others; through work we serve God himself as we serve those with whom he identifies.

Although in working we become like God, giving further shape and form to the earth for the good of humanity, we remain subordinate and responsible to God as stewards of his creation. Although through work we meet many of the basic bodily needs that we share with the animals, our work goes far beyond such needs in the development of culture, and it goes far beyond the instinctual behavior of animals when it is carried out with intelligence, foresight, imagination, and responsible choice.” (*Working for our Neighbor*. p. 76)

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