





MADE FOR MORE

Discovering
God's Design
for Work

What is work?

Work is any purposeful activity – whether manual, mental, or both, whether paid or not. Work is counterbalanced with leisure, rest, and Sabbath, though the line between them cannot always be drawn exactly.

Based on the definition found in *Work Matters: Lessons from Scripture* by R. Paul Stevens, Eerdmans, 2012, page 2



Genesis 2:4-18 (ESV)

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. ⁵ When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—



Genesis 2:4-18 (ESV)

⁷ then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



Genesis 2:4-18 (ESV)

¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.



Genesis 2:4-18 (ESV)

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”



Your work has significance because God is a worker.

1. God is a worker
2. God made us to join him in his work
3. God made us to work together



God is a worker

...then *the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils* the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And *the LORD God planted a garden* in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground *the LORD God made to spring up every tree* that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:7-9

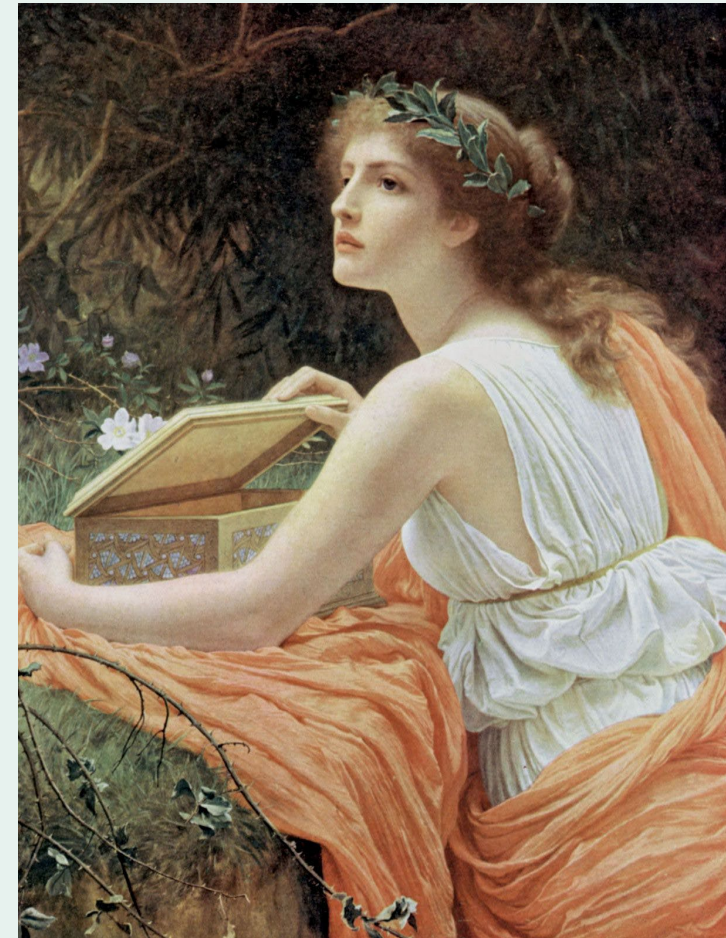


God is a worker

Enuma Elish Babylonian Creation Story



Greek Myth of Pandora



God is a worker

God is described in Scripture as a:

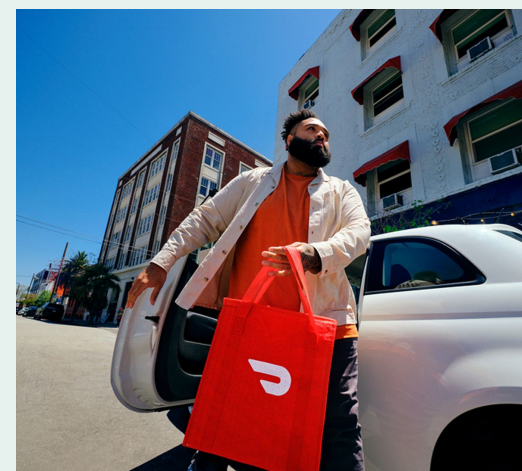
- gardener (Gen 2:8)
- shepherd (Ps. 23)
- potter (Jer. 18:6)
- physician (Matt 8:16)
- teacher (Ps. 143:10)
- vinedresser (Isa. 5:1-7)
- metalworker & refiner (Mal. 3:2-3; Ezek. 22:20)

Psalms 104 – He sends springs into valleys, waters the mountains, causes grass to grow, provides food for animals, maintains night and day, sustains living creatures, and sends his Spirit to renew creation

God is the creator, sustainer, and redeemer of the whole world



God is a worker



God made us to join him in his work

When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and *there was no man to work the ground... The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

Genesis 2:5, 15

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion... And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 1:26a, 28

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God made us to join him in his work

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Genesis 2:5, 15

“work it” – *abad* (Hebrew) – to work, serve, or worship – frequently used to refer to *overtly* spiritual activity

“keep it” – *shamar* (Hebrew) – to keep, guard, protect – frequently used to refer to keeping God’s commandments

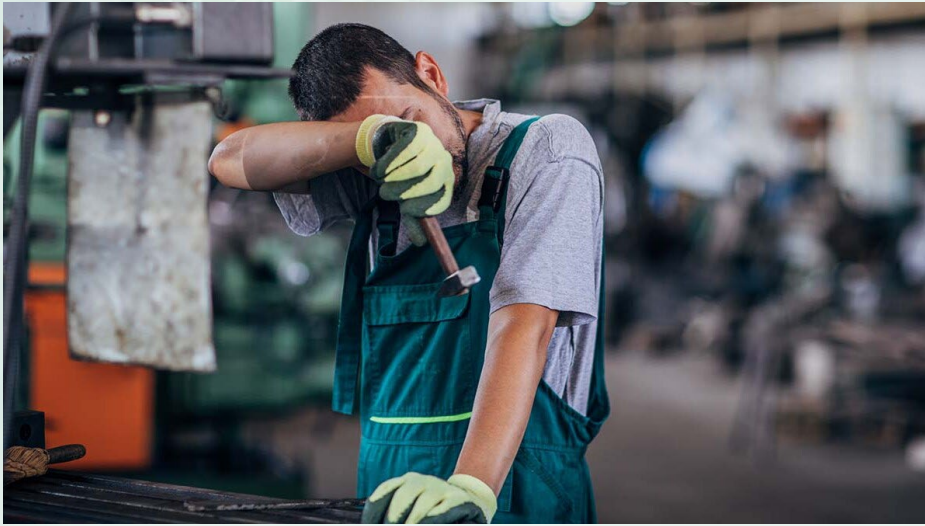
Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23-24



God made us to join him in his work

Work is Cursed Due to Sin – Work Becomes An Opportunity For Sin



God made us to work together

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

Genesis 2:18

“Helper” – *ezer* (Hebrew): a help, helper

This is not a derogatory term or role. God uses this same word to describe himself numerous times in Scripture.

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my *help* come?

My *help* comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 121:1-2



God made us to work together

Are women supposed to be just stay-at-home moms? No.

1. There is no such thing as being just a stay-at-home mom. Caring for children and managing a household is a high and holy calling that Scripture affirms.

Older women...are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

Titus 2:3-4

She looks well to the ways of her household...

Proverbs 31:27a



God made us to work together

Are women supposed to be just stay-at-home moms? No.

1. There is no such thing as being just a stay-at-home mom.
2. Scripture provides numerous examples of women engaged in other forms of good work.
 - Proverbs 31 woman (Proverbs 31)
 - Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1)
 - Wealthy female disciples (Luke 8)
 - Lydia, the seller of purple goods (Acts 16)
 - Priscilla, a tentmaker with her husband (Acts 18)

Husbands and fathers also have explicit responsibilities in the home as loving leaders, sacrificial servants, and in the discipline and instruction of children.



God made us to work together

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

Genesis 2:18

Good work is relational

Martin Luther’s “Masks of God” - God often hides his activity behind ordinary people, institutions, and created things



God does not need your good works
but your neighbor does.



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For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

