

Made for Good Work

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So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Romans 12:1 MSG

Our good God has made us for good work. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:2-9, 15-19)

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ 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 1:26-28 ESV

Good work is a gift from God, not evil.**Good work comes in many forms, and every kind matters to God.**

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Genesis 2:15

Good work is creative, not autonomous.

...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." ... ¹⁹ And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. Gen. 2:17, 19

Work isn't your purpose, but there is purpose in your work.**What does this mean for us?**

- Work is not punishment.
- You are not working for a boss.
- Just do something.
- Work hard as unto the Lord.
- Every job can be a Jesus job.

The good news is that our good God made you for good work—and in Jesus, He has already done the greatest work to redeem you and restore you.

Let's Talk About It

Work is not a necessary evil — it is a good gift from a good God, meant to be an act of worship and participation in His purposes. Whether you work in an office, a classroom, a construction site, or your own home, your everyday work matters to God. God has a purpose and plan for each of us, not only on Sunday mornings, but in our everyday lives and workplaces. You were created by God to create and work. When you work you are partnering with God in using the gifts He's given you for His glory!

Romans 12:1; Genesis 1:26-28, 2:2-9, 15-19; Colossians 3:23, 24

Discussion questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:15-19. In Genesis, we see that work is part of God's design, not a result of sin. What do you notice about God's work in creation? What does this tell us about God's design for work?
- Read Romans 12:1. How could *placing your work before the Lord as worship* change the way you approach Mondays? What would that look like for you?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word "calling?" How do you know when you are in your calling? How do you integrate your desires with God's desires for your life and work?
- Read Colossians 3:23-24. According to these passages, what is the ultimate purpose of all work? How does remembering that Jesus is Lord over all creation reshape how we think about our daily jobs?
- Have you ever thought about your work as your primary mission field? How can you start to live out your faith in the workplace or at school (ie: working with a better attitude, praying about your work or sharing your faith with co-workers)?

Take a Step

Take God with you to work this week and ask, "How can I partner with God and glorify Him in my work today?" What practical step you can take to honor God in your workplace? Lift up specific co-workers, classmates, customers, bosses, or employee — pray that your work would reflect Christ to them.

Here's My Prayer

God, thank You for the good gift of work You've given me and the people You've placed around me. Renew my sense of purpose in the workplace and help me see my co-workers the way You do. Jesus, please give me a fresh perspective to approach each task—not just as a duty, but as an opportunity to worship You, serve You, and reflect Your love. Use my work to bring hope, excellence, and blessing to those around me. In Jesus' name, amen.