

Created to Work

Read: Colossians 3:22-4:1

Main idea: God created us to work for Him everyday of our lives, no matter the circumstances, so that we might exalt Him and share His plan and purpose with those around us.

Key Verses: “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.” (3:23-24 ESV)

Key Principles:

- The story of creation describes God at work each day, deliberately and specifically creating the universe and every detail that it contains.
- The story of creation also describes humanity being created in the image and likeness of God which includes a desire to create and a capacity to work and have dominion.
- God has called every human to worship Him in their vocation, not just those that are called into full-time vocational ministry.
- Whatever work God has called us to and wherever He has called us to it, we can complete it obediently as our worship to Him.
- Just because God called us to worship Him through our vocation, it doesn't mean that our work will be easy or always pleasant, but it does mean that it will be valuable.
- Our work becomes worship when we make glorified God central in our actions and attitudes in the workplace.

Discussion:

1. Have you ever felt like you were wasting your time working a secular job? Why do you think we feel that way from time to time?
2. What does Colossians 3:23-24 reveal about our earthly jobs? How should that help our perspective to change while we're at work?
3. Read Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:15. Did these events happen before or after Adam and Eve fell into sin? What does that tell us about work and responsibility?
4. Does knowing that you were created to work affect the way you view your vocation?
5. Are there times when your job is not easy or you wish you had a different job? How can you find ways to worship God in these moments?
6. How can you find patience, grace and love for people that may make your work harder? How can you still worship God through your witness when work is hard?

Prayer:

- Pray that we would have a work ethic and character that brings glory to God everyday.
- Pray:
 - That we would see the value of what we do for the kingdom of God.
 - That we would honor God by all that we do at home, work and the community.
 - That we would use our vocation as a Christian witness to those we work with and for

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| I. | Honor Christ with your <u>sincerity</u>. | 3:22 |
| | 1. Be <u>productive</u> for your <u>superiors</u> . | |
| | 2. Be <u>praiseworthy</u> for your <u>Savior</u> . | |
| II. | Honor Christ with your <u>service</u>. | 3:23-24 |
| | 1. Remember <u>who</u> you <u>serve</u> . | 3:23 |
| | 2. Remember <u>why</u> you <u>serve</u> . | 3:24 |
| III. | Honor Christ with your <u>sympathy</u>. | 3:25-4:1 |
| | 1. Lead others without <u>favoritism</u> . | 3:25 |
| | 2. Lead others with <u>fairness</u> . | 4:1 |
| | 3. Serve the Lord <u>faithfully</u> . | 4:1 |

NEXT WEEK:
Redeemed to Work
James 2:14-26