



Working for the Glory of God and the Good of People

How Your Faith Intersects with Monday Morning



Why Do We Work?



- What is the motivation?
- What do we hope to get in return?
- What makes us choose one job over another?

Why Do We Work?



¹ Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”

Genesis 11:1-4 (ESV)

Why Do We Work?



- A. Provision – v. 4 “...Come let us build ourselves a city...”
- B. Innovation – v. 3 “...and burn them thoroughly...”
- C. Personal Identity – v. 4 “...and let us make a name for ourselves...”
- D. Recognition – v. 4 “...and a tower with its top in the heavens...”
- E. Cultural Identity – v. 4 “... lest we be dispersed...”

What's Wrong With That?



⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built.

⁶ And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.

Genesis 11:5-6 (ESV)

What's Wrong With That?



⁷ Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.” ⁸ So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Genesis 11:7-9 (ESV)

What's Wrong With That?



A. Pride – v. 6 “... and this is only the beginning of what they will do...”

B. Misguided Cultural Identity – v. 6 “...Behold, they are one people...”

C. Increasing Distortion of Values – v. 6 “...And nothing they propose to do now will be impossible for them.”

D. Destruction – v. 7 “Come, let us go down there and confuse their language... and they left off building the city... they Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.”

Why Should We Work?



¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.... The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Genesis 2:1-3, 15 (ESV)

Why Should We Work?



But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

John 5:17 (ESV)

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27(ESV)

Why Should We Work?



- A. We reflect the likeness of God the Father
- B. We Imitate Christ
- C. We invite The Holy Spirit
- D. We glorify God through obedience
- E. We Participate in God's Provision for ourselves

Why Should We Work?



³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:30-31

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 1:28

Why Should We Work?



F. We participate in God's provision for others

G. We glorify God through our God-given gifts and abilities

Why is that So Difficult?



¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” ²

And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

Why is that So Difficult?



⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Why is that So Difficult?



⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

Why is that So Difficult?



¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Genesis 3:1-13

Why is that So Difficult?



¹⁶ To the woman he said,
“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

Why is that So Difficult?



¹⁷ And to Adam he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

Why is that So Difficult?



¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 3:16-19

Why is that So Difficult?



A. Knowledge without wisdom

v.5 “...you will be like God, knowing good and evil...”

v.6 “...desired to make one wise...”

B. Relativism

v.7 “Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew they were naked.” (See also v.11)

C. Conflict and separation

v.12 “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit...”

D. Displaced personal accountability

v.13 “...The serpent deceived me...”

Why is that So Difficult?



E. Even fundamental work is painful

v.16 "... multiply your pain in childbirth..."

F. Relational strife

v.16 "... Your desire shall be for your husband and he shall rule over you."

G. Hostile working conditions

v.17 "...cursed is the ground... in pain you shall eat of it..."

H. Inconsistent results

v.18 "thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you..."

I. All production requires labor

v.18-19 "...and you shall eat of the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread..."

Why is that So Difficult?



- Our labor, like all of creation, is separated from God's original design by sin.
- We live in exile from God's perfect place, design and protection.
- Our own sinful nature, the unintentional and intentional actions of others, and a fallen world prevent us from working in a way that consistently glorifies God.

Can Work Be Redeemed?



Work is part of God's "good" design.

Work does not need to
be redeemed.

Can Work Be Redeemed?



“There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him...” And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within the heart of man come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Mark 7:15, 20-23 (ESV)

Can Work Be Redeemed?



Christ came to redeem the broken
part of God's creation.

Christ came to redeem
US.

Can Work Be Redeemed?



A. Provision – Matthew 6 and 7

B. Innovation – Romans 8:20

C. Personal Identity – Galatians 3:27-29 &
Romans 8:37-39

D. Recognition – Philippians 3 & Galatians 2:20

E. Cultural Identity – 1 Corinthians 12, 10:17,
Ephesians 4:4 & Colossians 3:15

How Do We Apply It?



The cold-hard reality is that we cannot hope to apply even basic Christian principles to our lives if we do not have a rich, intimate, growing relationship with Christ.

How Do We Apply It?



This is accomplished through study of scripture, participation in Christian community, prayer, discipleship with more experienced believers, and constant heart evaluation.

Q&A

Application Discussion?



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Q&A

Application Discussion?



Questions