

# The Image of God at Work

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We tend to make our work about ourselves: our reputation, our image, our identity, our survival.

*Work is about God. Are you working to establish your own image? Or to reflect God's?*

## I. Work declares God's character

*God is the original Worker.*

On the Sabbath Jesus said, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working" (John 5:17).

To work is to emulate God: work is a gift from the working God to be like Him.

## II. Work declares God's image

*Work is intrinsic to man because we bear His image.*

Through the image of God we discover utility and abandon futility. So create! Innovate! Solve problems! Improve products! Be efficient!

We were created anew in Christ for good works (Eph 2:10). God is at work in you to work (Phil 2:13).

## III. Work declares God's design

– **To produce** (Job 28:1–11; Prov 14:23)

– **To provide** (Prov 11:25; 1 Tim 5:8; 6:18; cf. 2 Thess 3:10–11)

Do you work from lack (Prov 16:26)?

Do you work to get or to give (Eph 4:28)? Working to give is like God.

Do you *have to work* or do you *have work to do* (Eph 5:16–17; 2 Tim 2:4)?

## IV. Work declares God's purpose

*—our sanctification (especially in authority, submission, and trials)*

Christ is the Paradigm as One eternally in a state of submission, diligently doing the will of Another (John 4:34). If you have authority, how do you wield it (Col 4:1)?

| Implications   |   |
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| All work has dignity: there is beauty and purpose in honorable work (Col 3:22–24). | Fear the Lord; work with integrity (Luke 16:10).                          |
| For believers the dichotomy between 'secular' work and kingdom work is false.      | Sloth degrades and destroys (Prov 18:9).                                  |
| Non-complainers shine a bright testimony (Phil 2:14–15).                           | If you try to find your identity in your work, you will feed on futility. |

*Work, as a reflection of the image of God, is the lifelong context of carrying out good works, within God's parameters, for the good of others and our sanctification.*