

Subdue = bring into submission and service

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Genesis 2:5 (ESV)

Work is not a necessary evil. Work was in the world before sin was in the world.

...and there was no man to work the ground, Genesis 2:5 (ESV)

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Genesis 2:15 (ESV)

Why Do We Work?

1. We work because we are created in the image of God.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:1–2 (ESV)

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.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26–27 (ESV)

Dominion = to subjugate, to shape, to rule

For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 (ESV)

2. We work because God created the earth to be worked.

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 (ESV)

3. We work because work is part of worship.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Genesis 2:15 (ESV)

Work = worship

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 (ESV)

Our attitude at work is part of our worship.

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, Philippians 2:14–15 (ESV)

4. We work because it is the way we love our neighbor.

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Galatians 5:14 (ESV)

5. We work to give and receive joy from a job well done.

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Genesis 1:31 (ESV)

When we don't do our work well, we steal joy from ourselves.

When we don't do our work well, we steal joy from others.

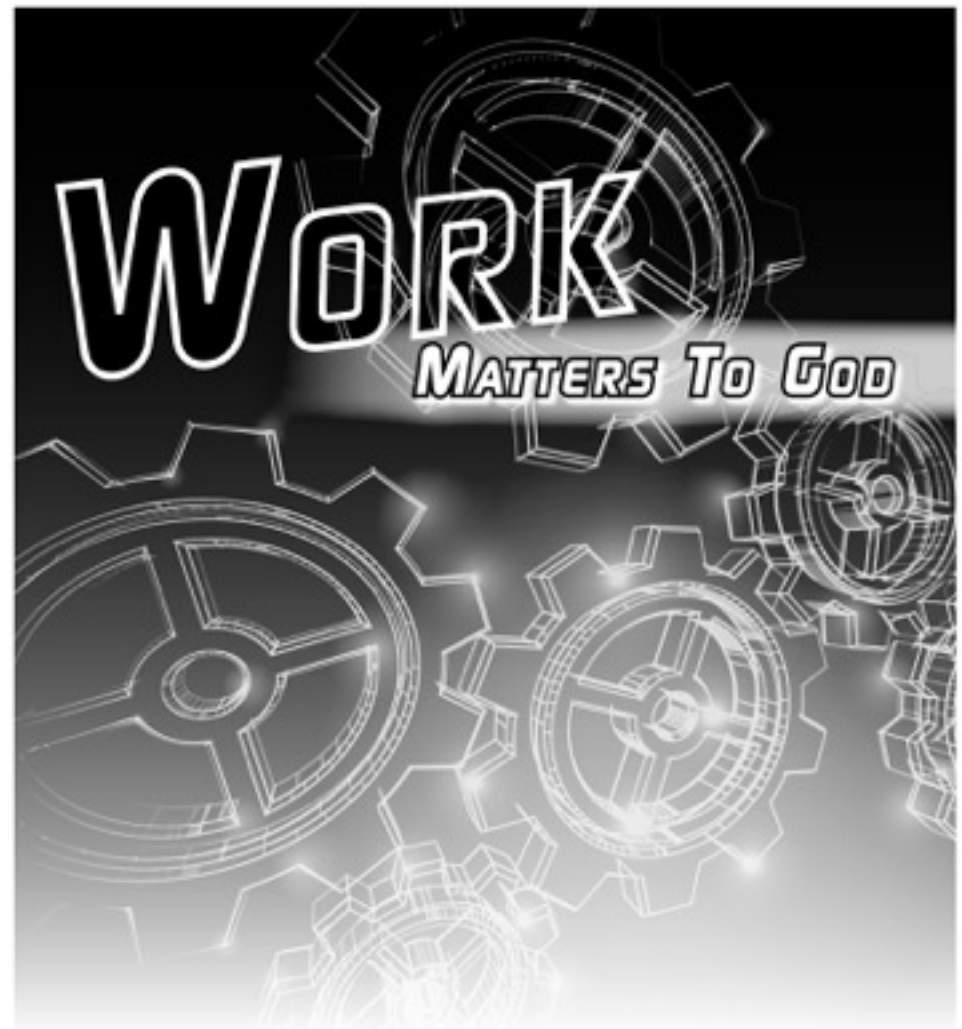
6. We work because God calls us to a work and shapes us for a work.

Finding a job is not about what I want to do with my life, it is about what God is calling me to do with my life.

My life is not ultimately about making money. My life is about finding out how God is calling me to serve him and to serve others, then doing it well.

But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. 2 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)

God shaped us for the work he is calling us to work.



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