

Essential Truths



Life of Drudgery or Living the Dream?

	Work and the created order	Work and the fall	Work and the Gospel
Why do we work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God works • We are made in God's image and likeness • It is His good design for us 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work remains part of God's good design but becomes hard and fruitless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is not a necessary evil • It does not earn salvation • The importance of work is affirmed (1 Thess 4:11, 2 Thess 3:8-12, Col 3:23)
Who do we work for?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He gives us work to do • Work is for the service of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should work for the service of God but we serve ourselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is for the service of "the Lord Christ" (Col 3:23)
What work are we to do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Govern His creation (Gen 1:26) • Create culture + society (Gen 1:28) • Work and take care of His creation (Gen 2:15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ...but sin would take it from order to disorder (Gen 4, 5)... • ...but sin would destroy both • ...but it rebels against us (Gen 3:17-19) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad range of work envisaged in the NT (see Col 3:23, 1Thess 4:11) • Gospel Work (Matt 9:38)
What will our work produce?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good • Order • Fruitfulness and human flourishing • Glory to God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will see order and disorder • Fruitfulness and fruitlessness, human flourishing and human misery • Glory to God and offence to God by our failure • A realisation that our work will always fall short and that we need God's grace and mercy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disciples • Income to provide for our and others' needs (1 Thess 4:12, 2 Cor 8) • Fruitfulness and human flourishing • An inheritance (Luke 19: 11-27)

Work and the Created Order: Questions

1. How does knowing that you are created in the image of a God who works and whose good design for you is work change the way you view work?
2. If we view our legal work as work in service of God, how does it change what we do for our clients or boss or how we treat our opponents?
3. Does the idea of government and law before the fall surprise you? What sort of law might there have been pre-fall and why? Does that change the way you view different areas of the law?
4. 'The result and purpose of God's commandments, God's word, God's law, is good' (e.g Gen 1:9 'And God said...And it was so...And God saw that it was good'). Does that change what you ultimately seek to achieve at work for your clients and colleagues? Does it alter what you consider should ultimately guide you in what you seek for them?

Work and the Fall: Questions

1. In what ways do you consider your work 'painful toil' (Genesis 3:17)? What 'thistles and thorns' (3:18) do you encounter? Can you relate to the statement 'by the sweat of your brow you will eat your food' (3:19)?
2. What fallen purposes or motives do you or lawyers generally have for practising in the law?
3. How does your work serve God by administering His common grace?
4. What does the bible say about your area of the law and what difference does that make to your practice?

Work and the Gospel: Questions

1. What impact does God's grace have on your view of legal work? What impact does it/might it have on you day-to-day as a lawyer?
2. How does the example of Jesus help you day-to-day as a lawyer? (e.g. 1 Peter 2:18-25)
3. How does working for the "Lord Christ" alter your view of work and how might it change it in practice?
4. Who or what is at the heart of your identity?
5. Discuss experiences of sharing the good news of Jesus with a colleague and pray together for one or two colleagues and your witness to them.

Work and the New Creation: Questions

1. Have you considered the idea that there will be work in the New Creation?
2. What role do you think lawyers will have in the New Creation?

Further reading: Every Good Endeavour, Tim Keller (2012, Hodder & Stoughton), Gospel Centred Work, Tim Chester (2013, Good Book Company)

Seek Justice • Love Mercy • Walk humbly with God

Company limited guarantee, registered in England & Wales: No 7422674

Registered Office: 8 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1HL Registered Charity Number: 1139281