

SESSION 1

Creation & Purpose of Work



INTRODUCTION

DEFINITION OF AUTHENTIC MANHOOD

Reject _____

Accept _____

Lead _____

Expect _____

1. DEITY AT WORK

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

— Genesis 1:1–5

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

— Genesis 2:1–3

2. WORK COMMISSIONED: DOMINION & CULTIVATION

Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

— Genesis 1:26–28

Humans are given _____ over the earth.

Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made . . . The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.

— Genesis 2:8, 15

Man’s earliest responsibility is _____.

Each of you should continue to live in whatever situation the Lord has placed you, and remain as you were when God first called you.

— 1 Corinthians 7:17

CATEGORIES OF WORK

Work: _____

Rest: _____

Recreation: _____

Escape: _____

3. A CORRESPONDING CAUSE

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the LORD God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil . . . He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

— Genesis 2:4–5, 20

4. PURPOSE IN WORK

Fulfillment or Idolatry?

10 Ideas to Consider

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

5. HIS WORK FOR US

You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. This is my command: Love each other.

— John 15:16–17

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

— Ephesians 2:1–10

Discussion Questions

1. Make sure everyone in your group has had a chance to meet. Share with the group a little bit about your job and what you are hoping to learn from this study.
2. What is the significance of God working from the beginning?
3. What are some of the unrealistic expectations you have regarding work?
4. How have those expectations made work more difficult?
5. In what ways do we exert dominion over the world through our work today?
6. From the list of 10 ideas, can you name three that resonate with you and help you find meaning in your work?