

Working Like God

Pastor Jim Essian: April 12, 2015

THE PARADOX CHURCH

And then God said, “let us make man in our image, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and the birds over 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 them, male and female he created them. And God blesses 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.” And God said “behold I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food, and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth and to everything that has the breath of life I have given every green plant for food. And it was so. 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 1:26-31)

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

Most of us spend much of our time at work and working—so it would make sense that the Bible would speak to it and that we would address it. And it Genesis 1 the Bible talks about work. Now work and rest and work and Sabbath really work hand-in-hand in the Scriptures. So this week and next week are pretty much kind of, just part 1 and part 2 of the same sermon. So we will talk about work this week primarily and we will talk about rest next week, and Sabbath and how unbelievable important that is—but they kind of work hand-in-hand.

We will talk about work and we will see how God’s work plays into our work, and all of that. Now Genesis 1 is basically, when you look at it from this perspective of work, it’s basically a cosmic, take your child to work day. This is us going to work with our dad, with our God, who is inviting us into the same work that he is working. We are going to go to work with our dad. Just on a cosmic, epic, global, huge, forever, and eternal level. It will be a lot of fun. That hasn’t stopped, in the New Testament you’ve got Jesus really saying the same thing, “Hey I am going to go do some things, I am going to go and save some people, I want you to go and make disciples of all nations, I want you to baptize them, I want you to teach them all that I have taught you, and I will be with you all the way until the end of the age.

Why? Because we are going to go where Jesus is, we are going to do what he does. We are going to participate in God's work in redeeming and restoring and saving those that He is saving. Really from the Old Testament to the New Testament, from Genesis to Revelation, God is at work and He has invited us to be a part of the work He is in, and His aim and His purpose and His hope, actually not hope because it is going to happen, His aim, what He is after—is the glory of His name to fill the Earth. In work and rest, our work and our rest play into that and play into aspects of how that works and what is going to happen there. So we will talk about work, work is a big deal in the Bible.

Here are two errors that we tend to fall into as we look at work. A perspective on work and how we work—and because we are in the Bible belt, and because we are in Texas, we tend to fall into both errors. Here is the first error: we create a false dichotomy of “sacred” and “secular. So some things are sacred and some things are secular. And the sacred things, the spiritual things, that God really cares about, and the secular things we say, that God really doesn't care about. What He cares about is that we come to church on a Sunday, read my Bible occasionally, and I pray, and I do some other maybe spiritual or religious things. What He doesn't care about are these secular things, like my hobby, and my work, and what I do with my time, and what I do with my money and what I watch on TV. He doesn't care about those things, and He cares about these other things, and we have created this secular divide, so our work then, where does it fall?

Our work falls on the secular side, and God doesn't care too much about our work, it is not important to us...and for work to be important to God, to do the Lord's work, we have to get out of this secular job, and we have got to go to seminary and we've got to become a pastor and we have got to work for a church. We have got to go become a missionary, because that is what the Lord's work is. And then, if that's the Lord's work and that's important and that's for the varsity Christian the ones that are preaching on Sunday and going over and being missionaries and the JV Christians are the ones that are a banker, you know, they are a lawyer because they are not doing the Lord's work because we have created this sacred and secular divide.

When we create that sacred/secular divide that is always going to lead us to the second error. Because then work then falls into this secular place, and it is not important to God, it has got to mean something. Then Christians go into the next error and that is the worldly mindset error of what work is. That is the belief that work that is going to fulfill me, it is going to define me, it is going to give me dignity, and worth, and value. My job and my work up the job ladder or the prestige that comes with my job or the money, that is going to

somehow give me value and define me. That work will fulfill and this is another error because of course it can't. It can't.

Tim Keller calls that “the work beneath the work.” So you have your job, but then really underneath that work, is the work beneath the work. That is the work of our finding your identity and getting some significance from the work. Because there is that work beneath that work, work is work. Work is hard. Work is not, and never seems to satisfy, we never get out of it what we want to get out of it. Because this work beneath the work. It is not just work, its WORK. It is going to make me, and fulfill me and satisfy me. That is the second error—the worldly mindset error, and we tend to fall into both of these things, both of them. When we have that, we have the thought that work is going to fulfill me, we end up in either pride or despair, because we are completely satisfied. When you get asked, “What do you do,” —“well I’m a doctor, what do you do?”—“I am just a stay at home mom.” Our worth and our significance is based on what we do. We go toward pride or despair.

So these errors, they lead us to an incomplete view of work, none of them, neither of them actually honors God and perhaps Genesis 1 can help us, and correct us. So, Genesis Ch. 1, lets look and see what the scriptures say about work, “Then God said,” verse 26 “ 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 them, male and female he created them. And God blessed them and God said to them, be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it.” Underline or circle ‘subdue it’ “and have dominion” underline or circle ‘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. All of creation.” Verse 29, “and God said, “behold I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of the earth, and every tree.....” We have read this a number of times, this is the image of God, we are made in the image of God. The Imago Dei, humanity is different than the animals. We are made unique, we are made distinct, we are made in the image of God. We reflect God, we are not God, but we are made to reflect God. We are kind of like God, we are not God, but we reflect some of what God is like. We’re different, we’re unique, and in our image of God-ness, in our bearing of the image of God—we are to do also what God has done, what God does, namely to subdue and have dominion over creation.

Theologians, they call this the cultural mandate, go and be fruitful, multiply, fill the Earth, have rule over Creation. God says, “I want you to be rulers, and co-creators in what I am doing in the universe.” So God has been working in Genesis 1, God is taking chaos and He

is ordering it, making things out of nothing, beautifying it and make things function, and ordering things to be practical. He invites us to take part in that, we are to subdue the Earth and have dominion over the Earth, we are to take God's raw materials, we are not God, and we cant create out of nothing, we take the raw materials that God has created and we order them, we fashion them, and we create as well. We work, we are to work. Night and day God finished His work He had done, and on the seventh day He rested from all His work He had done, God works.

It goes on into recreation in the New Testament, where Jesus is at work, Jesus is working, right? Sin breaks everything, sin wrecks everything, humanity is broken, Romans 8 even says creation has been fractured, and so Jesus comes and begins to recreate, that is part of His work. He says in the gospel of John, Jesus says, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish His work." The Father sent the Son in the world to work, to work. To do the work of recreation, Jesus says in John 5:17 "My Father is working, even until now, and I am also working." God works and so we as His image bearers work also. Philippians 1 vs. 6, "and I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you, will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." How do you know that you are going to finish strong, how do you know that you are going to know Jesus to the end, because God is at work in you. God is really good at working, God is going to finish it, and complete it. It goes on in Philippians 2:13, "For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

Jesus is even at work in your suffering, your suffering, Romans 8:28, "We know that for those that love God, all things work together for the good, for those who are called according to His purposes." So God works, which means we work as image bearers of God. Now the Bible speaks a lot against those who wont work, the Proverbs even talks about a guy that is so lazy that even taking food from his plate to his mouth is too hard for him. The guacamole on the chip is too heavy and I can't work to get it to my mouth. The Bible just rails against those that don't work. In fact, Paul, the apostle Paul is writing the Bible, and He has to write to a church to tell them to work. Imagine, he is writing the Bible, wants to talk about real spiritual things, but they aren't working. It is in the Bible, "Hey guys, you need to work. Get off your butt, go work, stop eating guacamole and playing video games, you need to go do something." He says to the Thessalonians "we would give you this command," hey we were around you and saw you being really lazy. We told you to get to work then, and you haven't, so now I have got to write the Bible, and I have got to write the Bible for you to work. "If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat." You aren't going to eat if you don't work. "We hear that some among you walk in idol-ness, not busy at work, but busy bodies." I like that. "Now

such persons we command and we encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ, to do their work quietly and to work.” It is holy to work; it is like God to work. You need to go work.

So God works, and because we are image bearers of God, we are to work too. We join God in what He is doing; we image God in what he is doing. He takes things that are chaotic and makes them orderly; he takes raw materials and makes them beautiful. He forms them and creates them. He helps things, and makes them to function practically. So teachers are to raise up young people and to cultivate the students mind, that is godly, its godly. The doctor takes an unordered body, a chaotic body and orders it, so it functions. That’s godly. A counselor does the same thing with the mind, takes an unordered mind, and forms it and orders it, so that it functions better. Right? You cut hair, you style hair, you’re taking something and making order, that’s holy, and godly. That is what God does. Work is meant to join God in what He is doing. To mimic God in what He is doing. So all of that is work that images God. So this brings God glory, and we are made to show God’s glory.

So look in verse 31 again, he has been saying this throughout the creation narrative, he sees everything in verse 31, “And God saw everything that He had made and behold, and it was very good.” It was very good. And so God is enjoying His work. He is enjoying his work; do you enjoy your work? God doesn’t just care about the worker, he cares about the work. He enjoys what He has created, and he enjoys what He has done. He doesn’t just care about the florist, He cares about the flowers. He doesn’t just care about the carpenter; He cares about the home that was built. He doesn’t just care about the baker, he cares about cake. God loves cake. Nothing Bundt Cake, lemon flavor, the best, God loves lemon cake. I am sure of it. He loves what He has done, do you ever just enjoy your work, man that is godly, that isn’t prideful, that was a good work that you did. Do it unto God’s glory, God enjoys work. That work beneath the work, doesn’t let us enjoy our work at all. Because we never get anything done, we are never satisfied; we are working for our identity, and not for God and His glory.

It is good to work. It is holy to work well, and it is godly to enjoy it. I think it would be helpful just to define work. Get an understanding of what the Bible means when it talks about work. Then those of you who are maybe looking to figure out what you want to do, or those of you who want to change what you do, is there a way in which you can understand what you want to do. So in the scriptures, work is everything that you do that isn’t rest and that isn’t partying. So the Bible has days and nights, and rhythms and seasons, for rest and for celebration. Everything else is work, and so in the bible everything people did was work. So everything was work, so church across history, has not looked at work as a job, but work as a vocation, that work is your different, varying locations or callings. Right, more than just our

job, so for instance, if you are a husband or a father, that is one vocation. That is a calling, you've been called to that. If you are a wife or mother, you've been called to your family, that is a vocation. That's work. Amen? Right, that's work. If you are a Christian, you are called to the local church. That's work—50, 60, 80 volunteers this morning have served you. That was work, that wasn't rest, that was work, they didn't get paid for it, it was a calling, it was work. Acts 17, says that God has determined your allotted periods and times, and the boundary places that you dwell in, meaning where you are, God has called you there. That is a vocation. So you have a calling to a city, a calling to a community, calling to a campus. These are varying callings and vocations, your job is just one of those.

Your job is not meant to be your vocation, it is one of them, and I would argue, your job should serve your other vocations. Your job is one vocation that serves the vocation of your family, "Oh I need to provide for my family, because I have been called to provide for my family, so I need to go get a job." Oh I have been called to this city, what does this city need? Well the city doesn't need a drug dealer, so I won't do that. Okay, the city doesn't need a mechanic that is going to charge me way too much. Maybe the city needs an honest mechanic? Maybe I could do that, because that would serve the city well—because I have been called to this city, and I have a calling in this job to serve the city well. Too many of us view our job as "let's make a living," but that is not what we have been called to, and Genesis 1 speaks to that. God has made a living for us. In verse 29, "and God said, behold I have given you every plant yielding seed, you shall have them for food" God is saying "I am going to provide for you, I am going to make a living for you, what I want you to do, is work and be called to various callings and I want you to do them well, and do them to my glory, and to serve those that you have been called to."

Love your neighbor in how you work, so work is all of that, it is all of that. Your family is work, your marriage is work, parenting is work, loving your city is work, serving your church is work according to the scriptures. So then what do I do? How do I make this decision as to what I should do to work? In verse 28 when it says to be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion, it is basically saying that we are to rule over creation. We join God in ruling over creation, so as it pertains to this question as to what you should do in creation, and what should you do for work. You should do something you're good at, do something you can subdue; you can have dominion over, do something you're actually good at. Are you passionate about something, are you good at something? That is what you should do. Not anything to do with prestige or status, just something you are actually good at. I am not going to be a teacher, it doesn't make enough money, and it is not a high enough status

for me, so I am going to go be a doctor, but I am not any good at it. Don't even like it. If you like being a teacher, you should be a teacher, you should do what you're good at.

What is the biggest lie that parents tell kids? You can be anything you want to be. No you can't. No you can't. You can't jump, you can't play in the NBA, you just cant. You're not going to play in the NBA. "Well daddy I want to be an astronaut"—"well son, you're not smart. You're not smart at all. You're just not going to be an astronaut". It is Adam Sandler saying, "I wanted to be a model, but then I found out I wasn't very good looking." That is good; realize those things you are actually good at. What can you rule over, what do you like to do? You should do what you like to do. Then what will serve my neighbor, what does my city need? Those two questions, what am I good at...and what will serve those that I have been called to? That's how we should make those decisions about what we do. We got here in 2006/2007 and spent some time in Fort Worth and I began to just look at Fort Worth and saw and it seemed like it needs a particular kind of church and the area is a little ultraconservative, and seems to need this particular kind of church, it seems to need to be downtown where there is this distinct culture and it's changing and all kinds of people were moving in and the city it needs this particular kind of church. I felt called to do that, I need to go do that.

That wasn't any more holy than Derek saying, what the city needs is a great lawyer, who would be for the city or Mel and Sarah who look at the city and say, oh there's prostitutes here who need to be served and loved and they need to be shown how they can get out of this lifestyle. Or this city needs of really good college recruiter, I need to be a college recruiter that can serve the city, and I can serve the students that are coming to the city. That's unbelievably holy, and not any more holy than my job and not any more spiritual or godly—or the Lords work than mine is because they say I am good at something, and the city needs that something, so I am going to go do that.

Martin Luther, he was quoted as saying—God doesn't need your work, but your neighbor does. God doesn't need anything right? He created everything out of nothing. Your neighbor needs your work, your neighbor does, were freed up to work, not to please God, but work to love our neighbor. Dorothy Sayers says and she describes work as the gracious expression of creative energy in the service of others. The gracious expression of creative energy in the service of others. Now here's what this means, this means that our worship and glorifying God in our work, the Lords work, it could happen in anything, and everything—in the mundane and the important. Look at Chapter 2 verse 15, Gods inviting us into His work, he creates everything, He creates this garden, and in verse 15, "Then the Lord God took the

man and put him in the garden of Garden of Eden to tend and keep it." The Lord God took the man, took Adam put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it. We talked about this a few weeks back, work it and keep it. It's the same words, in the same language that the rest of the Old Testament uses for the priests, that priests who work in the Temple are to work it and keep it, in the Temple. Right? They are to work and keep the Temple. So that's spiritual work, that's sacred work yeah? A priest working in the Old Testament temple was a big deal, unbelievably sacred, unbelievably spiritual. Its first talked about in the garden with God, the garden was like a temple where God would dwell, and in the Temple, symbolically in the Old Testament, the Jewish Temple, where the priest would go in there and perform all these washings and all these different things, ultimately being with God, a priests right to be with God as he dwelled there, just like he dwelt in the garden with Adam.

Genesis 2, God is walking with Adam in the Garden, He's dwelling with Adam in the garden and Adam is put in the garden to work and keep it like a priest. He is a priest is doing sacred work, holy work, spiritual work, unbelievably sacred, holy work. What is he doing though? He is gardening, pruning things, cutting things; he has got the green stain thing around your shoes when you're mowing grass. He is naked right? Nothing like doing yard work naked. He probably has got that green on his feet, dirt underneath with fingernails, he's sweating and has been sweating all day, I will bet he is sore at the end of the day. There was no sin yet, so it wasn't like a painful sore it that was that really good kind of sore, man that was a good, hard days work kind of sore. Unbelievably, holy, sacred, spiritual work Adam was doing and he was gardening.

Even ordinary and mundane things now are our work unto the Lord, that everything that we do now is sacred. I loved Spurgeon's quote, listen the language, its English back, like way a long time ago, but it's cool, The Lord hath cleansed her houses he has cleansed your bed chambers, your tables, your shops, he has made the bells upon your horses holiness to the Lord, he has made the common pots and pans of your kitchens to be as bold before the altar, if you know what you are and live according to your high calling, then you housemaids, you cooks, you nurses, you plowmen, you housewives, you traders, you sailors—your labor is holy if you serve the Lord Christ in it by living unto him as you ought to live, then he says this the sacred has absorbed the secular.

I love this, everything is sacred, everything is holy, everything is worship to God, and my changing of diapers, in my weeding of my yard, taking the garbage out, even reading email, anybody like email? All that can be done unto the Lord in worship. Worship is not just Sunday for an hour-long, or I go on an hour and a half, it is just that worship is all of life and

everything. God he cares about the things we can do them the glory of God, you get to worship all day, every day, all the time. Not just by singing, or worshipping, or doing spiritual things, but working well, in glory and service to others. It is just so much better than having that work beneath the work. Everyone look at me and how awesome I am, and oh man I'm not awesome today. Everything is sacred when working onto the Lord; the sacred has absorbed the secular.

I think we need a bigger vision of our work and a bigger vision of really what God's doing in us and in the work that he's doing in inviting us into His work. So in Genesis 1 & 2 you have Adam and he's put to work, in what? Where is he working at? He is working in a garden right? So Adam is working a garden and revelation in the Bible what do we have? In revelation we have a city—the line was moving from a garden to a city. A city is just a bunch of well-ordered gardens, like it looks like a city though. It is beautiful, and God loves cities, and he loves people in cities and work is done to his glory in cities. It doesn't mean God doesn't love the rural areas, the suburban areas, it doesn't mean that. I am not saying that, doesn't mean he loves all cities right? I'm sure he doesn't love Dallas; I know he doesn't love Dallas, or Houston either, he likes some cities, and he loves Fort Worth.

It's moving from a garden to a city and our work then is a part of that. Our work is a part of that. All that civilization, cultivation, and that building, in Revelation when God comes, the new heavens and the new earth, God is with us, as it was at the Temple. All that work is sacred work by what starts in the garden with God dwelling with man, and it ends in a city with God dwelling with man. An unbelievable story and so we get to be a part of it and so now then, the church as Christians who been invited into this very sacred and holy work, like diaper changing and weeding and baking to the glory of God and love of our neighbor. We then get to give people a foretaste of what heaven will be like. Were getting people a look at previews of coming attractions, and here's what it's like when God's people do things really well and do them to serve and love other people not so that they are seen as awesome, and here's what it looks like when God's people look to do things to God's glory and not to their own, and here's what happens when the Spirit of God dwells with a group of people and they go and they love and and serve a community in the city through their work.

That is what we get to do, church isn't some kind of gathering on a Sunday morning, its city building, it's us loving this place and saying, I am going to work my butt off in this place, do what I am good at, and I am going to do it to love and serve other people to the glory of God. Is there anything ordinary? Nothing is ordinary. Is anything mundane? Nothings mundane. It is all for God's glory, and we do everything unto him. Have much bigger vision

for what this is and what we are doing what we are a part of. Jesus he says in Matthew 5 that we are a city on a hill, were to be set apart, different, alternate, another kind of city in the city. Our vision, our hope is being a church in the city, to saturate the city with the glory and grace of God. That's not just us gathering on a Sunday morning and worshiping, it is you leaving this room, and Monday through Saturday going and saturating the city with the glory and grace of God.

To display and proclaim what God is like, what God is like, Tim Keller, he says once in cities Christians should be a dynamic counterculture, is not enough for us to simply live as individuals in the city, we must live as a particular kind of community, Jesus told his disciples they were a city on a hill. Christians are called to be an alternate city within every earthly city, an alternate human culture within every human culture, to show people, and culture, how sex, money, and power can be used in nondestructive ways. What a great calling, and so this is why work can't fulfill, work can't satisfy, because we try to pull out of it something that it wasn't meant to do. Work is a tool that God has used; he's called us to it that we might work to his glory. We start in the garden, dwelling with God, everything gets broken, and it gets cultivated and built into the fullness of the church, as a city with God dwelling with man.

So work, what is work then? Work can't define you. God's called you to work, work trying to fulfill you then becomes you try to pull out of creation what only the creator can do. If you try to get something out of your job, fulfillment, value, when it's God who gives value, you were made in the image of God. You already have value, your work is meant to serve others and to love him not to somehow define you. So we are overworked, were stressed-out, were sacrificing our family on the altar of our work, all because were trying to get out of work something that only God can give. That makes it treasonous. See some of you can worship in your work, or you can worship your work and when you worship your work that's cosmic treason and it's a grave sin.

God called you to do this, and called you to love people and bring him glory and your trying to get out of it your worth, significance, and value—that's treasonous idolatry, that's sinful. Some of you, you go to work day after day after day after day after day sinning against God. Trying to get something out of work only God can give you, and you are probably not doing you job very well and you're not enjoying it. As soon as a businessman forsakes ethics and begins to enter into unethical territory because he's trying to get an account, or get another sale, or do whatever he's trying to do, is falling into cosmic treason. This is trying to get something out of work that only God can give. As soon as a stay at home mom begins to not value her work at home, even just for a moment, she's forgotten that her value comes

from God, not from work in the home. She has committed cosmic treason. God is God, work is not God. Work is a tool, things are tools to love people and worship God with. They are not gods, so were freed up with a better understanding of what the Scriptures teach on work.

Now we keep saying worship, or work unto God's glory, what might that look like? Do I invite people to church at work, maybe, what does it mean, what does it mean to work unto God's glory. Author by the name James Hunter he wrote a book called to change the world, this is a great book, it's ironic because he is calling us not to change the world, but it is a really good book. He talks about Christians in their calling then, because of what the Scriptures teach, is to faithful presence. That to work to God's glory, your faithful presence and so it basically means is this that were not called to change the world, not called to relevance, because Christianity is never really cool, you can't make it cool, we are not called to make it relevant, it's already relevant we don't have to make it relevant. We don't need to try to make it cool, which means you don't leave your secular job to go create a Christian alternative of that. We are not called to do that, you don't leave your secular business to go create a Christian business. Businesses don't go to heaven, Jesus didn't die for businesses. So we are not called to make things relevant, or cool, were not called to change the world, we are also not called to be afraid of the big bad world.

I don't like to get involved in that, I can't be a part of that, one guy recently he started a new job, said I just don't like it here, everyone's just, you know, sinful—it's just a dark place to be in, well great, you can be light in the dark. I think I read that somewhere, yeah we shouldn't be afraid of the big bad world. We hideout in our Christian business with our Christian friends, only be there, no we are called to be faithfully present. Faithful presence is God saying to the prophet Jeremiah, hey I want you to build houses in the city that I've sent you to, I want you to plant gardens in, and get married, seek the good, the welfare, the shalom of the city that I've sent you to.

Because its welfare in its peace and it's shalom, you will have yours. Faithful presence is, I am going to buy a house, plant gardens, get married and I'm going to love this place and seek it's good. So that God is glorified, that my neighbor is loved and served because in that, I will find my welfare. Faithful presence as we work to the glory of God is it just me being the best lawyer in Fort Worth, do it well, serve your neighbor and do it freed up from the work underneath the work. Jesus, he frees us to just work, Jesus' work frees us up to just work. He says in John 17 when he's about to go to the cross, he has accomplished everything, he is praying to the father, he says to the father I glorified to on earth, having accomplished the

work that you gave me to do. Jesus is perfect in his work; he worked perfectly to the glory of God.

Jesus worked perfectly to love his neighbor, Jesus' work, his sinless life, his sacrificial, substitutionary death on your behalf, because of your cosmic treason, because you wake up and you go to work trying to get identity and value and worth out of your work, Jesus he died for that sin, and in his work, we are freed up to just work. See we don't have to work in order to have people love us, accept us, because the God of the universe loves us, and accepts us because of Jesus' work. We don't have to try to find value and significance and be awesome, because Jesus, his work says, no you weren't, because of Jesus and his work we can have a new heart and new desires to work. Now were not trying to work in order to be awesome, and we are not trying to work for our glory, now we can actually work to God's glory because we have new hearts that love God.

Not broken over sin, Jesus's work was really good; God did great work in creation, Jesus to do great work in recreation. So Jesus' work then frees us up to just work, and work isn't that work beneath the work. Now it is just work. Imagine being able to just work and you could just do it and do it well, free from that—I get to do it well and I must do it well, I'm a servant of people, now I am going to go home and rest, or party, or do both. This is unbelievably important, work beneath the work is over, it is finished. You are His in Christ, you are loved in Christ, you are accepted in Christ, in Christ be freed up to just work. What a difference it is if I stand up here and do my job freed up from caring what you think about me. What a difference, I have a lot more fun, even if you don't, I don't care, I am able to serve you, not afraid of what you think, so now I may have to say the hard thing that I can say it because I care more about loving you and glorifying God, but if I come up here with the work beneath the work burdening me, weighing me down, and I need your acceptance, need your approval, this sermon needs to be awesome, I am not having any fun. God is not honored, I'm committing cosmic treason as I'm doing the Lords work. We must be freed up in Christ, so we can just work.