

**Redeeming Work**  
**“Your Work Has Been Twisted by Sin”**

**Genesis 3:14-19; 4:6-7; Romans 8:22-30**

*Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, Oct. 1, 2017*

Genesis 3 shows us the alienation between us and our God, the alienation between us and other people, and the alienation between us and our work.

Sin didn't destroy work, but it distorted it in ways that can destroy you if you get sucked into them.

**I. If You Get Sucked into Doing Restless Work Instead of Rested Work – You'll Experience a Loss of Joy and Peace No Matter How Gifted You Are**

Even though God created us in His image for work, He never designed us to work without rest. God Himself rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day after creation, not because He needed to, but because He was modeling for His image bearers how to function.

A hurried, harried, preoccupied life that is driven by nothing but work is a twisted version of what God designed for you.

Until you learn to work for the glory of God, instead of working to promote yourself or to prove yourself, you will keep living on the ragged edge of burnout never able to rest.

Jesus said in **Luke 9** that you have to lose yourself to find yourself. If you work for personal fulfillment you will work yourself to death, and it will never be enough.

God wants us to experience a work that arises out of deep rest, when you know you have nothing to prove, and it is simply a joy to work hard to the glory of God. When you understand the Gospel of what Jesus has done for you, you enter into a rest that should impact the way you work.

When you understand not only that you are created in the image of God for work, but that you are loved by God, and accepted by God with nothing to prove, you'll do some of your best work.

**II. If You Get Sucked into Thinking Only Certain Work is Worthy Work – You'll Experience a Loss of Contentment and Gratitude for Where God Has Placed You Right Now**

Any work done well matters to God. There are no distinctions, no levels, no caste system, and no biblical work ladder to climb, with some people living on the lower rungs, barely able to glorify God because of what they do.

The biblical approach is that all work is worthy work filled with dignity and value when you do it well.

You don't need to hang your head or be ashamed of the kind of work you do, because our God is a God who wasn't afraid to get His hands in the dirt. He is a God who stooped to come into our world, and he worked hard as a carpenter.

Your work matters to God and is a reflection of the image of God, and it is bringing glory to God, whether it is cerebral with software or whether it is hands on by the sweat of your brow.

Hold your head up high as an image bearer, working hard for the glory of God. When you start thinking only certain work is worthy work, you will lose all sense of gratitude and contentment for where God has placed you right now.

### **III. If You Get Sucked into Thinking You Are Your Work – You'll Experience a Loss of Security and Confusion Over What Matters Most**

When God is taken out of the picture, either leisure and pleasure become the meaning of life or work becomes the meaning of life.

Work is good, and as a reflection of God can give you a sense of dignity, but it was never meant to define you.

Your identity should never be swallowed up in your vocation. Those two things should remain distinct. When they don't it becomes toxic and destructive to you and everyone else around you.

It's not wrong to work hard and to want to do what you do with excellence, but it's idolatry when you lose yourself in your career and struggle to go on living when you're no longer at the top of your field.

Your career was never meant to be your identity or place of security. The marketplace is way too fragile to sustain the weight of your identity and security.

**Colossians 3:1-4** says:

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

At this point in redemptive history, the work we do, and the workplaces we do it in, are filled with frustration and pain, but it's all framed up in the context of something much bigger and better, the redemptive power of the Gospel and a savior who is coming back to restore all things.