

Vauxcation: A series on faith and work

November 12, 2023

Genesis 2:4-15



On Sunday we continued our new series, Vauxcation. God is a worker and God cares about our work. Throughout the Bible, the portrait of work that we are offered is not divided by sacred and secular, but good/right and bad/evil work. We have the opportunity and privilege to discover the kind of work that God is calling us into and partner with Him to take the world someplace.

Getting Started

Toran began Sunday talking about some of his past jobs. What was your first job? Did you like it? Hate it? How long did you work there?

Read

Genesis 2:4-15

Digging Deeper

- Despite our culture's tendency to relate negatively to work with our "I hate Mondays" coffee mugs and songs like "9 to 5", God created work and made it good. What's your relationship with work like? Do you enjoy it? Is it a means to an end?
- Our vocation is less something that we choose and more something that we uncover and excavate. What would you say your vocation is? Let the definition below help you ask God to reveal your vocation with more and more clarity.
 - Identity (who you are) + Calling (how you are uniquely designed) = Vocation (what you do and how you do it)
- Toran shared 6 types of work that God participates in. They are listed below. Which type of work do you find yourself in? How can you see it more and more as an opportunity to partner with God to take the world someplace?
- Of the several questions that Toran closed the message with, did any stick out to you? Did God speak to you in any other way on Sunday related to your vocation that's worth sharing with the group?

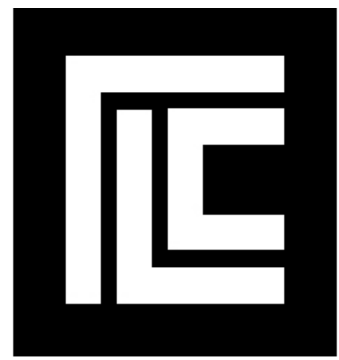


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- 1) Redemptive work (God's saving and reconciling actions). Humans participate in this kind of work, for example, as evangelists, pastors, counselors, and peacemakers. So do writers, artists, producers, songwriters, poets, and actors who incorporate redemptive elements in their stories, novels, songs, films, performances, and other works. (Parenting!)
- 2) Creative work (God's fashioning of the physical and human world). God gives humans creativity. People in the arts (sculptors, actors, painters, musicians, poets, and so on) display this, as do a wide range of craftspeople such as potters, weavers, and seamstresses, as well as interior designers, metalworkers, carpenters, builders, fashion designers, architects, novelists, and urban planners (and more). (I would add entertainment work, comedians, professional athletes, magicians, etc.)
- 3) Providential work (God's provision for and sustaining of humans and the creation). "The work of divine providence includes all that God does to maintain the universe and human life in an orderly and beneficial fashion... This includes conserving, sustaining, repairing and replenishing, in addition to creating and redeeming the world." Thus, innumerable individuals—bureaucrats, public utility workers, public policymakers, shopkeepers, career counselors, shipbuilders, farmers, firemen, repairmen, printers, transport workers, IT specialists, entrepreneurs, bankers and brokers, meteorologists, research technicians, civil servants, business school professors, mechanics, engineers, building inspectors, machinists, statisticians, plumbers, welders, janitors—and all who help keep the economic and political order working smoothly—reflect this aspect of God's labor.
- 4) Justice work (God's maintenance of justice). Judges, lawyers, paralegals, government regulators, legal secretaries, city managers, prison wardens and guards, policy researchers and advocates, law professors, diplomats, supervisors, administrators, and law enforcement personnel participate in God's work of maintaining justice.
- 5) Compassionate work (God's involvement in comforting, healing, guiding, and shepherding). Doctors, nurses, paramedics, psychologists, therapists, social workers, pharmacists, community workers, nonprofit directors, emergency medical technicians, counselors, and welfare agents all reflect this aspect of God's labor.
- 6) Revelatory work (God's work to enlighten with truth). Preachers, scientists, educators, journalists, scholars, and writers are all involved in this sort of work.



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