Work: God’s Design

Read Genesis 1, Genesis 2:1-3 and Genesis 2:15.

In Genesis 1:2 we’re told that the earth was initially formless and void, and in Genesis 2:1 we’re told that by the end of the 6th day, God’s work on the heavens and the earth was finished.

What does this passage tell us about the manner in which God created the heavens, the earth and living things?

How did God describe His completed work?

What attributes of God are revealed here?

On day 6, God created man and women “in His own image.”

What does it mean to be created in God’s image?

In verse 28, God blessed the first man and women and commanded 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.”

What did God mean in commanding the man and woman to fill, subdue and have dominion over the earth?

Genesis 2:15 says that the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

How do you think working and keeping the garden relates to God’s command to fill, subdue and have dominion over the earth?

In the Creation, God brought order out of chaos. How does the man working the garden of Eden echo God’s work?

How does your work bring order out of chaos and develop unrealized potential?

Is it fair to say that work is fundamental to what it means to be human? Why or why not?

Some think of work today as being a necessary evil,...simply the painful and unavoidable manner by which we must provide for ourselves and our families.

How is this viewpoint unbiblical in light of Genesis 1?

The ancient Greeks understood that life required work, but, in general, they saw work as demeaning. They believed that the more manual the form of labor, the less noble it was.

How does this square with the Genesis 1 account?

This notion of differing work value took a different form in the pre-Reformation Church. The “sacred” work of monks and priest was considered “God’s work” while “secular” labor done by all others was believed to be worldly and demeaning.

Does this make sense in light of Genesis 1? Why or why not?

God’s common grace is bestowed on all people to one degree or another. This type of grace is expressed by Jesus in Matthew 5:45 - For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

How does God use the work of mankind as an expression of His common grace?

In accordance with His common grace, how does God use your particular job to meet the needs or make the lives of others better?

In Matthew 22:36, Jesus was asked which commandment in the Law was the greatest and He responded with the following in verses 37-39: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **38**This is the great and first commandment. **39**And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

How can you demonstrate love for God and your neighbor in your day-to-day work?