



Avodah Project: Revitalizing Work

Theology

Creation and redemption are twin forces at the center of God's work in the world. As people made in the image of God, it is our privilege to enter into, if only derivatively, both the creative and redemptive labor of God as we create new things and redeem broken things in the world. As Dr. Gill teaches, this is foundational to our understanding of work and reminds us that work is, in fact, a blessing. The Bible teaches that work is part of God's perfect design for us and the created world we called to steward (Genesis 2:15).

Beyond providing the motivation to work, scripture is replete with wisdom pertaining to "how" we work. Industry, responsibility, dedication, enjoyment and skill are all values to which scripture calls us (Proverbs 6:6-11, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12, Colossians 3:21-24, Ecclesiastes 3:22). When we embrace these values, we experience the blessedness of work as intended by God.

The environment of work also furnishes us with new relationships. Within these relationships we have opportunity to model Christ-likeness, call others to righteous work practices and even to establish work cultures that reflect the values of the kingdom of God. In our informal interactions with co-workers, we may find opportunity to explicitly share the gospel hope that is in us through Christ.

We hope to make a comprehensive approach to faith and work normative for all our congregants. It will take work to get there but we believe it is the role of the church to provide training, community, support and encouragement to help workers bring faith to bear on their vocational lives. To this end, we have identified eight objectives we feel will help make comprehensive integration of faith and work a reality in the lives of our congregants.