

Men of the Word

# CALLED TO LEAD

## Leadership at Work

March 20, 2024

“God blessed 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 sky and over every living thing that creeps on the earth.’ Then God said, ‘Behold, I have given to you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has the fruit of the tree yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to everything that creeps on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food’; and it was so. And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.” — *Genesis 1:28–31*

### 1. WORK IS SPIRITUAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP

**Romans 12:1–2** — “Therefore I exhort you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy, and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may approve what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

**Ephesians 6:5–9** — “Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the integrity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, serving with good will as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.”

**Colossians 3:22–24** — “Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but with integrity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. Serve the Lord Christ.”

### 2. WORK IS A GIFT FROM GOD

**Psalms 104:13–14** — “He waters the mountains from His upper chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of His works. He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the labor of man, so that he may bring forth food from the earth.”

**Psalms 128:2** — “When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, you will be happy, and it will be well with you.”

**Ecclesiastes 3:12–13** — “I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one’s lifetime; moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor—it is the gift of God.”

### 3. WORK IS A FACT OF LIFE

**Job 7:1** — “Is not man forced to labor on earth, and are not his days like the days of a hired man?”

**Psalms 104:21–24** — “The young lions roar after their prey and seek their food from God. When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until evening. O Lord, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions.”

### 4. WORK IS HARD

**Genesis 3:17–19** — “Then to Adam He said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, “You shall not eat from it”; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you will eat the plants of the field; by the

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sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

**Ecclesiastes 2:22–23** – “For what does a man get in all his labor and in his striving with which he labors under the sun? Because all his days his task is painful and grievous; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is vanity.”

## 5. WORK HAS A PURPOSE

**Ecclesiastes 4:7–8** – “Then I looked again at vanity under the sun. There was a certain man without a dependent, having neither a son nor a brother, yet there was no end to all his labor. Indeed, his eyes were not satisfied with riches, and he never asked, ‘And for whom am I laboring and depriving myself of pleasure?’ This too is vanity and it is a grievous task.”

### WHY WORK?

1. Humility (Psalm 107:10)
2. Provide for others (Ephesians 4:28)
3. Sleep (Ecclesiastes 5:12)
4. Eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10)
5. Stay out of Trouble (2 Thessalonians 3:10)

### FOR THE LEADER AT WORK (Ephesians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 6:1-2)

1. Remember. “Do the same things to them...” Remember where you came from.
2. Be Humble. Your Master is in heaven. Everyone answers to somebody.
3. Be honorable and respectable. Your subordinates are commanded to honor and respect you.
4. Work hard to the glory of God (your Master) and for the benefit of your employer (your master).

### Discussion Questions:

- What is the significance of the imperative and purpose of work being established in creation before sin entered the world?
- What is the “work” you do other than the job you may have? What work should you be doing?
- What are some other reasons to work?
- What are the character qualities of a leader at work?

### Additional Resources:

Listen to, or read the transcript of, the sermon “The Conscientious Christian Employee, Part 1” (Feb 8, 1987), available at:

<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/54-43/the-conscientious-christian-employee-part-1>.

Listen to, or read the transcript of, the sermon “The Conscientious Christian Employee, Part 2” (Feb 15, 1987), available at:

<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/54-44/the-conscientious-christian-employee-part-2>.

Listen to, or read the transcript of, the sermon “Spirit-Filled Labor Relations” (Mar 18, 1979), available at:

<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/1951/spiritfilled-labor-relations>.