

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS! GEN. 1:26-28, 31

Encouragement, joy, happiness (as opposed to fun / entertainment / amusement), purpose, meaning – are all **if it seems all else has failed – read the creation narratives to discover why we were created & how to get plugged in!**

I. We are created to work!

Genesis 1:26 And God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over** the fish of the sea, and **over** the fowl of the air, and **over** the cattle, and **over** all the earth, and **over** every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and **subdue it: and have dominion over** the fish of the sea, and **over** the fowl of the air, and **over** every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Genesis 2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. **Genesis 2:15** And the LORD God took the man, and **put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.**

Genesis 2:19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. **Genesis 2:20** And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

The **Imago Dei** – from the beginning:

- Created in God's image
- Created to work like God works
- Created to work a lot

Exodus 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. **Exodus 20:9** Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: **Exodus 20:10** But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: **Exodus 20:11** For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

- Created to work to meet your needs & your family's needs

1 Thessalonians 4:11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; **1 Thessalonians 4:12** That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and **that ye may have lack of nothing.**

1 Timothy 5:8 But **if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.**

2 Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. **2 Thessalonians 3:7** For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; **2 Thessalonians 3:8** Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; **but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: 2 Thessalonians 3:9** Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. **2 Thessalonians 3:10** For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. **2 Thessalonians 3:11** For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. **2 Thessalonians 3:12** Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

- Created to understand / see work as more than work

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1 Timothy 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

3 ways people view work:

1. As a job

Works for money

When pay stops, work stops.

2. As a career

Work for promotions, status, position – and when these stop, work either stops / becomes hollow

3. As a calling

Money, titles, positions are all good!

However, he / she would do this work regardless!!!

Remember: work ≠ job- although it can!

II. We are created in relationships!

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Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, **It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.**

Genesis 2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; **but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.**

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

WWW: God gave us things to use & people to love. Most of us end up using people and loving things!

Thoughts:

- **The Imago Dei is inherently social - as is God!**

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

- **The Imago Dei includes male and female**
- **The Imago Dei includes marriage**
- **The Imago Dei includes children**
- **The Imago Dei includes church family**
- **The Imago Dei includes friendships**

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Proverbs 27:10 Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off. **Proverbs 27:17** Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

III. We are created for God / worship!

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give **eternal life** to as many as thou hast given him. **John 17:3** **And this is life eternal, that they might **know** thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**

Philippians 3:10 **That I may know him,** and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: **for** thou hast created all things, and **for** thy pleasure they are and were created.

Thou hast made us for thyself and our hearts are restless until they find rest in thee! Augustine