

Doctrine of Humanity

The Foundation of Our Formation as “Gardeners”

- **Pre-Fall Mandate:** Work was instituted by God before sin entered the world, as seen when God placed man in the Garden of Eden to work and keep it.
- **Imago Dei:** Because God is a creator and worker, humanity reflects His image through labor and sub-creation.
- **The Cultural Mandate:** God’s command to “fill the earth and subdue it” establishes work as a primary means of stewarding the world.

Redefining Work and Worship

- **Work as Worship:** The sermon argues that work is not a separate secular activity but a platform for worship and honoring God.
- **The “Sunday-Monday Gap”:** This concept describes the false divide believers often feel between their spiritual lives at church and their daily professional lives.
- **Vocation as Calling:** Every honorable job—whether manual labor, corporate, or domestic—is a “calling” from God to serve the common good.

The Impact of the Fall on Work

- **The Curse vs. The Act:** While work itself is a blessing, the Fall made work difficult, frustrating, and prone to “thorns and thistles”.
- **Idolatry of Work:** Sin leads humans to either idolize work (finding their identity in it) or be idle (avoiding the responsibility of it).
- **Restoration:** Through Christ, the motive for work is transformed from self-advancement to serving God and others.

Practical Implications for the Believer

- **Neighbor-Love:** Work is a practical way to fulfill the command to love your neighbor by providing services and goods that help society flourish.
- **Excellence:** Believers are called to work with excellence and integrity as if working directly for the Lord rather than for human masters.
- **Kingdom Contribution:** Daily tasks are viewed as contributing to the “unfolding” of God’s creation and the benefit of the community.

Key Scripture Texts

- **Genesis 2:15:** “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it”.
- **Colossians 3:23-24:** Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.