created to Create

divine creativity and God’s design for labor and the marketplace

“...You Shall Labor...” “...and do all Your Work.”

“Six Days You Shall Labor and do all Your Work.”

...what is this command for?

Mark 2:27

Exodus 20:9-11

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Exodus 20:9-10 (NAS)
Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.

Exodus 20:8 (NAS)
Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy

THE WHOLE COMMAND
Exodus 20:8-11
God worked...
God rested...

BACK TO THE NATURE OF GOD

The World’s View of Work
what is it? “a four-letter word”
“the pits” “if I didn’t need the money…”
“it’s what I have to do to get to Friday”
What about “Corporations”? Profit?
is God concerned with *economics*? has He spoken in this area?

James 5:4

Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

is God concerned with *economics*? has He spoken in this area?

Proverbs 22:29

Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings...

Many listed Gutenberg the "Man of the Millennium"

Johannes Gutenberg worked...

...and his work, changed the world

1455, Gutenberg invented the printing press.

Within 10 years, total number of books went from 50,000 to over 10 million.

1st book off the Gutenberg press: the Bible.

Copies had taken a year to be produced, by hand.

God providentially gave this Kingdom Tool for the spread of the Gospel through the work of Johannes Gutenberg.

“...religious truth is imprisoned in a small number of manuscripts, which confine instead of spread this public treasure. Let us break the seal which binds these holy things, let us give wings to Truth in order that she may win every soul that comes into the world by her word, no longer written at vast expense, but multiplied everlastingly by a machine which never wearies.”

“Yes, it is a press, certainly, but a press from which shall flow in inexhaustible streams of the most abundant and most marvelous liquor that has ever flowed to relieve the thirst of men. Through it, God will spread His word; a spring of pure truth shall flow from it; like a new star it shall scatter the darkness of ignorance, and a cause a light hitherto unknown to shine among men.”

Gazing Upon the face of God

THE ORIGINAL WORKER

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

Genesis 2:2

the divine attribute stamped upon man

Genesis 2:15

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

But...
is this the picture we see today?

Do we jump out of bed in the morning, and rush to work with a child-like gleam in our eye, whistling while we work, groaning when the 5 o’clock whistle blows and we have to quit?

what happened?

Genesis 3:17-19
To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life...

Genesis 3:17-19
It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

Sphere stuff

how Important is this sphere?

- Food
- Clothes
- Housing
- Medicine
- Transportation
- Communication
- Water, Gas, Electricity
- It Funds Everything

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how Important is this sphere?

- Drugs
- Abortion
- Gambling
- Pornography
- Movies & Music
- Genetic Engineering
- Enron
- It Funds Everything

General Economic Model

- Lev 26:23
- Psa 50:7-12
- Gen 1:26-30
- 1 Chr 29:10-14
- Ex 20:11
- Ex 22:15-17
- Prov 10:4,14-15
- Matt 6:20
- Matt 25:14-30

seven economic Principles

#1

ALL THINGS BELONG TO GOD

Psalm 60:7-12

"Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you: I am God, your God. I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices or your burnt offerings, which are ever before me. I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens..."
Psalm 50:7-12
...for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it.”

Economic Principles

#2
GOD APPOINTED MAN TO BE A CREATIVE STEWARD OF HIS GOODS WITH “OWNERSHIP” RIGHTS

Genesis 1:28
God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Definitions

Steward:
a person (or group of persons) placed in a position of management authority over someone else’s property

Economics:
Management of the property that ultimately belongs to God over which He has placed a steward and over which that steward will be held accountable.

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Radical Stuff

Ephesians 6:5-8

- Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.

More Radical Stuff

Ephesians 6:9

- And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.
Theft of another’s goods is wrong...

Economic forms of theft:
- Taking another’s intangible property
- Devouring another’s goods or money
- Destroying another’s goods or means of production
- Excessive/oppressive/improper taxation
- Forced “redistribution” of wealth
- Others?

Exodus 20:15
“You shall not steal.”

Economic forms of covetousness:
- Class envy
- Demand for “redistribution” rights
- Others?

Exodus 20:17
“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Skills and abilities to work come from God
Then Moses said to the Israelites, "See, the LORD has chosen Bezalel son of Uri...and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship..."

"...he has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them master craftsmen and designers."

**economic principles**

# 5

**WORK IS PROFITABLE, GOOD, AND TO BE PURSUED; LAZINESS IS NOT**

*Work is not a result of the Fall*  
(God works, man works)

**Proverbs 14:23**  
All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

**Proverbs 10:4**  
Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.

*Work is not a result of the Fall*  
(God works, man works)

**Proverbs 28:19**  
He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.
**Labor**

2 Thessalonians 3:10
For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

Matthew 25:14-30
Parable of the Talents

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**economic principles**

#6

**Love God and Not Your Goods**

Matthew 6:19-20
Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal...

Matthew 6:21, 24
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

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**economic principles**

#7

**Be Compassionate and Generous with Your Goods to Those in Need**
Leviticus 19:10
Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God.

Ephesians 4:28
He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

1 John 3:17
If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

The Labor Sphere
Owner
Worker
Material Things
Compassion
Proverbs 28:27
He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.

Proverbs 28:7
The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.

Summary
God, having stamped his creative image upon man, graciously grants His stewards the privilege to be creative and manage some of His property, which they may lose (often because of sin) or multiply (often because of hard labor) and out of which they are responsible to be generous to the poor.
IS BEAUTY RELATIVE?

“Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.”
True or False?

IS BEAUTY RELATIVE?

Standard:
that which is good
that which is true
that which is beautiful

“I WILL SET BEFORE MY EYES NO VILE THING.”
Psalm 101:3

Western society sees over 60,000 audio and visual advertising images daily.

Gordon Pennington
former director of marketing for Tommy Hilfiger

The Overwhelming Presence

Art and media are the means and the bridge over which the current philosophy of the philosophers reaches the general culture.

Francis Schaeffer
How Should We Then Live?

The Overwhelming Power

Whoever controls the media controls the culture.

Francis Schaeffer
How Should We Then Live?

Whoever leads a blameless life... I will walk in my house with a blameless heart. I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men I hate; they will not cling to me.

Psalm 101:2-3

Our Standard

Creative Arts & Media

Soli Deo Gloria

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