

Reformed World View

Creation of Man

1. Created in the Image of God who created the world, made it functional, beautiful and full.
2. Created to tend and keep the garden: to make God's creation productive for him.
3. Created as male and female to work together to fulfill God's mandate to subdue the earth.

Fall

Man's Stewardship in with the Creation is Broken

Natural Systems are Broken

- A. "Thorns and Thistles"
- B. Illness
- C. Unequal Distribution of Natural Resources
- D. "Natural" Disasters

Restoration

- In Christ, All Things are Being Restored
- Restoration is the goal of the Ministry of the Church
- Restoration of all things is the collective responsibility of Christians

The Christian View of
Work

Our God is a Working God

- ◆ Ex 20:11 The Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them
- ◆ John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

Man Reflects God Image when he...

- ◆ Makes things that are good and beautiful
- ◆ Fills the empty
- ◆ Makes the non-functional things functional
- ◆ Assesses and improves his work
- ◆ Finishes his work

Work is a gift from God

Everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

Ecclesiastes 3:13

Work Allows you to provide for
yourself

2 Thessalonians 3:12

Now such persons we command and encourage
in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly
and to earn their own living.

Work Prevents you from being a burden to others

1 Thessalonians 4:10–12

10 But we urge you, brothers, to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you,
12 so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

Work enables to share with those in
need

Ephesians 4:28

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Diligence in work is an
outgrowth of faith

Colossians 3:22-24

22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Diligence in work is an outgrowth of faith

- The Christian's boss is Christ
- Diligent work done for an employer...
 - is work done for Christ
 - demonstrates fear of the Lord
 - earns an eternal wage

Diligence in Work is part of
Christian Discipleship

Titus 2:3-5

- ◆ 3 Older women are to teach what is good,
4 and so train the young women to love their
husbands and children, 5 to be self-
controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and
submissive to their own husbands, that the
word of God may not be reviled.

Christian Discipleship

- ◆ Discipleship is training in what is good
- ◆ Older teaching younger (skilled teaching unskilled)
- ◆ The purpose of discipleship is to prevent the word of God from being maligned by the non-Christian

Topics of Discipleship

- ◆ How to love their husbands and children
- ◆ How to be self-controlled
- ◆ How to be pure
- ◆ How to be kind
- ◆ How to be submissive to their own husbands
- ◆ How to manage a household

"Working at home"

- ◆ "working at home" - oikouros
- ◆ From oikos (house) and ouros (a guard)
- ◆ The "house-guard" or "Guardian of the household"

1 Timothy 5:13

13 young widows learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not.

Everybody is a "learner"

- ◆ They learn to be idlers (anti-work)
- ◆ They are on tour, going from house to house
- ◆ Their message is other people's business
- ◆ They give the adversary an occasion for slander against the church

1 Timothy 5:14

14 So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.

Paul's Application of the Creation Mandate

- "Marry" - A helper for the man (Adam)
- "Bear Children" - Mandate to be fruitful and multiply
- "Manage their households" - Mandate to subdue the earth

“Manage their own households”
oikodespoteo

- ◆ From oikos (house) and despot (a ruler (tyrant))
- ◆ to be master (or head) of a house.

What does it mean to be a “keeper
of the house” or “ruler of the
household”?

Proverbs 31:10-31

10 An excellent wife who can find? ...13 She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. 14 She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. 15 She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. 16 She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. 18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. 19 She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. 20 She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

Proverbs 31:10-31

21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet. 22 She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. 24 She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant. 27 She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. 29 "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

Exercise

- ◆ Read Proverbs 31:10-31 again.
- ◆ Write down and group her traits (the verbs) according to the type of activity.
- ◆ What types of activities characterize the woman who fears the Lord?

Traits of a “House-guardian”

- ◆ Fears the Lord is Summary Statement of her character
- ◆ Her work ethic dominates the passage
 - ◆ She works from dawn 'til dusk
 - ◆ She provides food and clothing for her household
 - ◆ She shops for the best products at the best prices
 - ◆ She enriches her household in diverse ways
- ◆ She is generous to the vulnerable – the only non-work action in the passage

For Further Study

- ◆ Westminster Larger Catechism

Question 140

The eighth commandment is, Thou shalt not steal.

Question 141

The duties required in the eighth commandment are:

- ◆ giving and lending freely, according to our abilities, and the necessities of others;
- ◆ moderation of our judgments, wills, and affections concerning worldly goods;
- ◆ a provident care and study to get, keep, use, and dispose these things which are necessary and convenient for the sustentation of our nature, and suitable to our condition;
- ◆ a lawful calling and diligence in it;
- ◆ frugality;
- ◆ an endeavor, by all just and lawful means, to procure, preserve, and further the wealth and outward estate of others, as well as our own.

Question 142

The sins forbidden in the eighth commandment are:

- ◆ unlawful callings and all other unjust or sinful ways of taking or withholding from our neighbor what belongs to him, or of enriching ourselves;
- ◆ covetousness;
- ◆ inordinate prizing and affecting worldly goods;
- ◆ distrustful and distracting cares and studies in getting, keeping, and using them;
- ◆ envying at the prosperity of others;
- ◆ idleness,
- ◆ prodigality, wasteful gaming; and all other ways whereby we do unduly prejudice our own outward estate,
- ◆ defrauding ourselves of the due use and comfort of that estate which God hath given us.