

Why Is Ordinary Work Important Work?

1. The Reformation rediscovered that God's work was more than church work.

Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. 1 Corinthians 7:17 (ESV)

For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. Psalm 147:13 (ESV)

2. Jesus gave value to ordinary work.

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Mark 6:3 (ESV)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:15–17 (ESV)

A. Ordinary work was God's will for most of Jesus' life.

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:11 (ESV)

B. Ordinary work is the way Jesus served his neighbor.

C. Ordinary work was Jesus' training ground for greater work.

Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Hebrews 5:8 (ESV)

3. All work that builds up society and serves others is important work.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:3–8 (ESV)

If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? 1 Corinthians 12:17–19 (ESV)

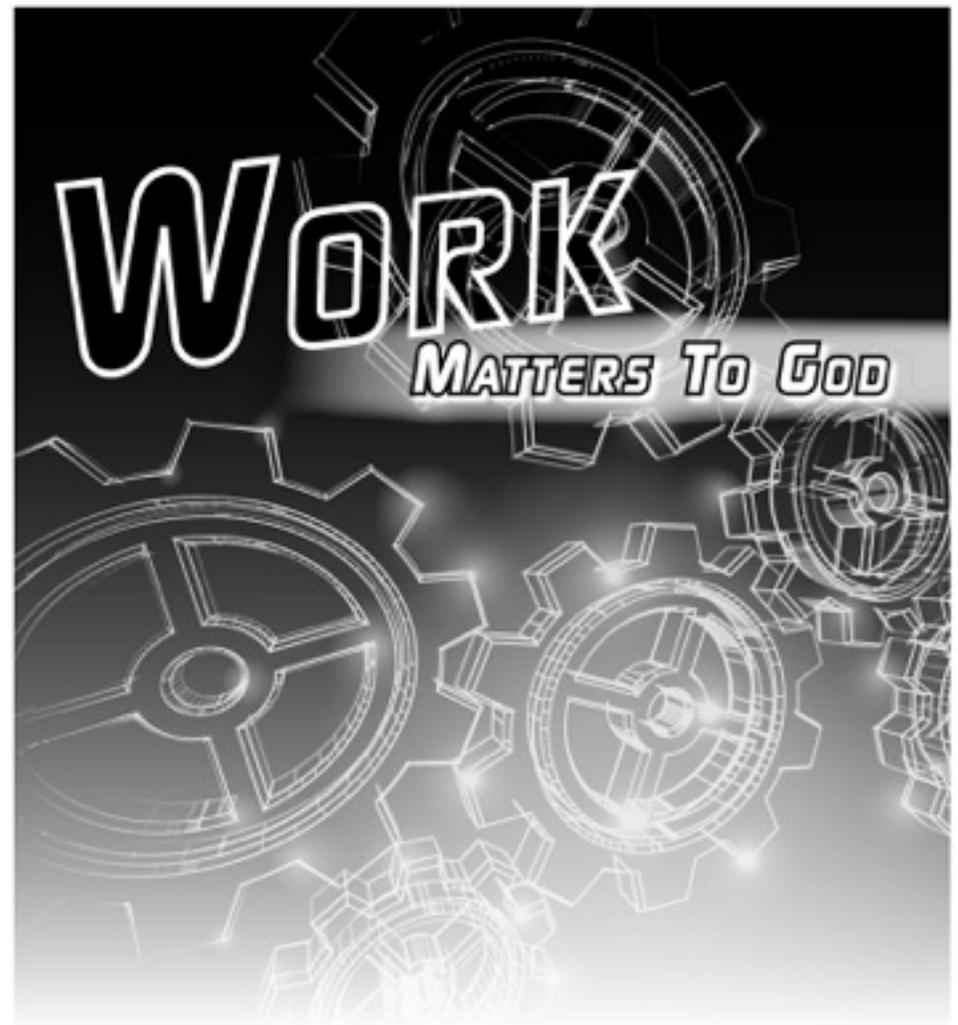
4. Ordinary work is more important than we realize.

*On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.
1 Corinthians 12:22 (ESV)*

5. Some of God's best work is done by people in ordinary work, not church work.

- Daniel
- Esther
- David
- Joseph

Conclusion



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