



**GRACE**  
*at* **WORK**

**“How can anyone remain interested in a religion which seems to have no concern with nine-tenths of his life?”**

**DOROTHY SAYERS**

“The Church’s approach to an intelligent carpenter is usually confined to exhorting him not be drunk and disorderly in his leisure hours, and to come to church on Sundays. What the Church should be telling him is this: **that the very first demand that his religion makes upon him is that he should make good tables.**”





THE UTILITARIAN VIEW

***“THE BEAUTY FACTORY”***

(COMMODIFICATION AND CONSUMERISM)



THE **PAGAN** VIEW

***“THE CULT OF BEAUTY”***

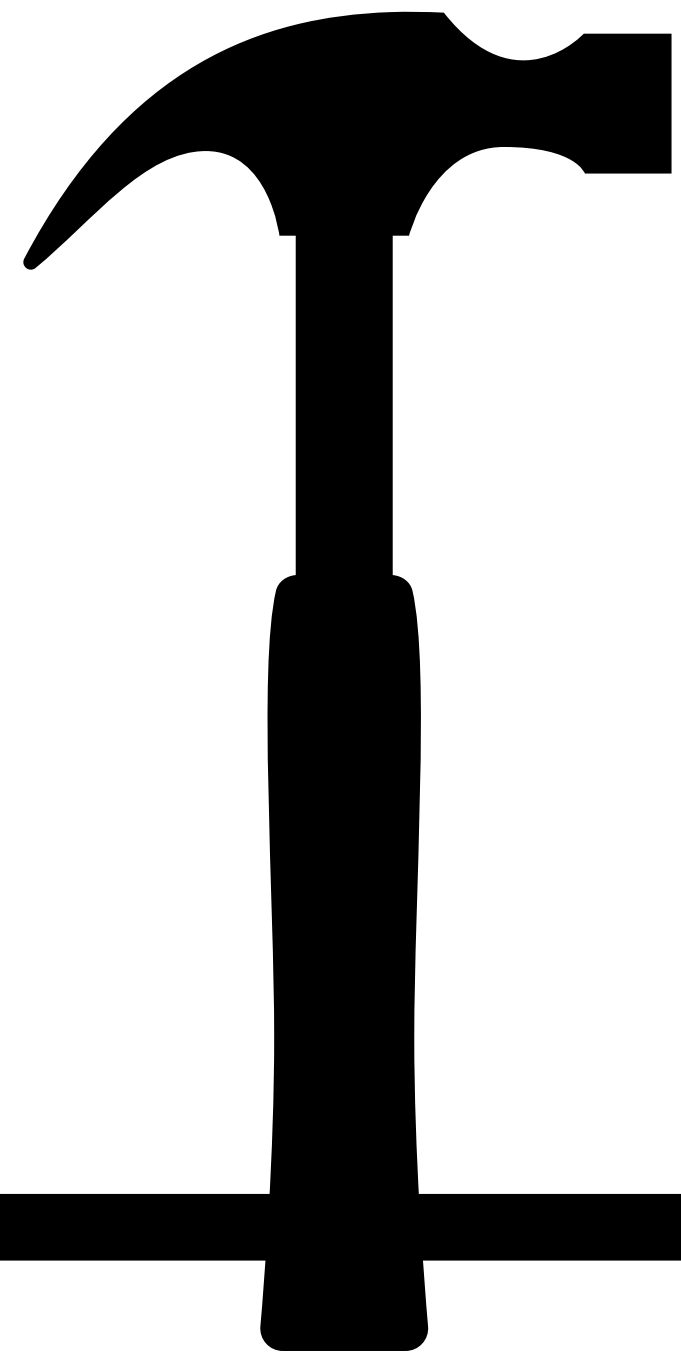
(ART FOR ART'S SAKE)



THE **CHRISTIAN** VIEW

***“THE SERVICE OF STYLE”***

(SERVING TO PROMOTE  
THE WHOLE PERSON'S FLOURISHING)



**Theology**  
*of* **Work**



**WORK IS WHAT YOU  
WERE MADE FOR.**



GENESIS 1.27-28

You are made in  
God's image to rule  
over creation.

## GENESIS 1.27-28

**You are made  
in God's image  
to rule over  
creation.**

PSALM 8.6

You have given him  
dominion over the  
works of your hands;  
you have put all things  
under his feet...

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

And God blessed them. And God said to  
them, **“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the  
earth and subdue it, and have dominion  
over the fish of the sea and over the birds of  
the heavens and over every living thing that  
moves on the earth.”**

GENESIS 2.15

You rule through cultivation,  
forming the world to flourish.

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**You are made in  
God's image to  
rule over  
creation.**

**You rule through  
cultivation,  
forming the world  
to flourish.**

The LORD God took  
the man and put him  
in the garden of Eden  
to work it and keep it.

1

*Work is not a  
necessary evil.*

2

*Work is about more than  
just paying the bills.*



**EVERYBODY WORKS.**



Your work is defined by vocation,  
not compensation.



**Your work is  
defined by  
vocation, not  
compensation.**

**ECCLESIASTES 3.22**

So I saw that there is  
nothing better than that a  
man should rejoice in his  
work, for that is his lot.

1

*You have a  
particular calling.*

2

*You have gifts to share.*

Your work doesn't have to  
transform culture, only  
contribute to it.

**Your work doesn't  
have to transform  
culture, only  
contribute to it.**

COLOSSIANS 3.23–24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

1

*Good work is  
inherently dignified  
and valuable.*

2

*God is glorified through  
ordinary excellence.*

**GOOD WORK  
GLORIFIES GOD  
AND SERVES  
OTHERS.**

M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28				



Sin makes work hard, but  
grace restores work.

**Sin makes  
work hard**

1

*The curse makes  
everything hard.*

**GENESIS 3.19**

“By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread,  
till you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
for you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.”

# Sin makes work hard

2

*Sloth and theft  
corrupt work.*

*2 THESSALONIANS 3.10–12*

If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

Grace  
restores  
work

3

*Sanctification comes  
through hard work.*

*1 TIMOTHY 2.15*

Yet she will be saved through  
childbearing—if they continue in faith  
and love and holiness, with self-control.



# Grace restores work

4

*Grace equips you to give.*

*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.

## YOUR TASK

To discern the God-given structure of your calling, find the right direction, to serve others and promote their flourishing.