

Oikonomia Network Retreat
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American definition of Work = to make money so I can do what I want to do.
Purpose of work is retirement = do what I want to do, rest.

THIS IS NOT GOOD

Biblical definition of Work is the gracious expression of creative energy of the YHWH in the service of others to create shalom.

Dorothy Sayers via Tim Keller and Gerry Breshears

Catholic priesthood = ordained person who uniquely can do spiritual work and that is the only truly spiritual work. This is often true of the Protestant pastor

Every member a minister = everyone helps with the work of the church = stuff done in the church building or in things like home groups.

THIS IS NOT GOOD

Priesthood of the believer. Every believer can do the work of priest in the church and every work a believer does is priestly. The carpenter's hammer is the tool of God; the lumber is the altar of God upon which we exercise our royal priesthood.

Worship consists of

- (1) adoration and proclamation of the greatness of the LORD and His mighty works (Acts 2:11) and
- (2) serving Him by living out His character in gracious service to others and
- (3) participation in the divine life (John 17:21; 1 John 4:12-15) and mission.

Righteousness and **justice** are life with all relationships – God, others, self, and rest of creation – well ordered so that life is full of shalom, all things flourishing as God designed them to be.

Shalom is God's intended state of perfect beauty; peace and completion in all things. Righteous dudes work toward righteousness, in fact they like the LORD, disadvantage themselves for the sake of community.

Flourishing is relational vs. satisfying my own natural desires
Dallas Willard

What is the Gospel?

“Normal” gospel:

You are a sinner headed for hell
God loves you
Jesus died for you
If you believe in Him
You will go to heaven when you die

The definitive Gospel statement is Acts 2:22-47

Revelation What God did

- 22 Jesus is Emanuel, the promised Messiah
- 23 Jesus was crucified and it's God's plan at work
- 24-32 Jesus resurrected and it's God's plan at work
- 33 Exalted which is victory over death and demons (and their political expressions)
- 33 Poured out the Spirit

Response What we do

- 37 Conviction = awareness that I gotta problem, guilt, shame, fear (confession = speak truth from the heart)
- 37 Confession = Talking about what I did
- 38 repent = change basic belief, value, god (Acts 26:20) NOT change behavior; change of attitude about God, change who is my god, change what I trust. This will produce fruit if the repentance is real.
- 38 baptized = the expression and confirmation before God, family and friends of my new repentance and faith; Gerry thinks that baptism is to Christian life and wedding is to married life.
- 41 Accept = believe, trust

Results what we get

- 38 Forgiveness Justification (forgiveness and acceptance) = by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone at the time of conversion, imputed righteousness, out of death
- 38 receive Spirit [new life]; Gift of Spirit (indwelling and incorporation) regeneration (new heart and indwelling Spirit) by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone at the time of conversion, imparted righteousness, out of resurrection
- 42ff New community of the Spirit
- 45ff New mission
[New Hope]

Community as Gospel work

Romans 12-15

1 Thess. 4

2 Thess. 3