

5. What does God mean when he calls his people Israel and his church a kingdom of priests?

Exodus 19: ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’

1 Peter 2: ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

6. Read the following quote that explores the implications of the truth that God delegates and does his work through us. Write in your own words the difference it should make in our lives at work.

“How would God go about doing our job? What values would God bring to it? What products would God make? Which people would God serve? What organizations would God build? What standards would God use? In what ways, as image-bearers of God, should our work display the God we represent? When we finish a job, are the results such that we can say, ‘Thank you, God, for using me to accomplish this?’” (From The Theology of Work Project)

Your Work Matters

“Why Your Work Matters to God and
God Matters to Your Work”
Genesis 1:26-2:25

Your work matters to God and _____ matters to your work.

What’s “Work”?

Work is what you do (paid or unpaid) that adds _____ to others.

If the primary things you do are things you do by yourself, and are focused on yourself, and they don’t produce anything for others, you need to get a _____.

Royal Priests of Eden

Your work matters to God and God matters to your work because you were made in the image of a God who works and delegates work to you. You are designed to reflect God’s “_____.”

Genesis 1 is an account of “the beginning” written to a group of people who had endured hundreds of years of slavery in Egypt and had been led out of slavery by a man named Moses. They had been given a law to live by, including the Ten Commandments. One of the commandments was to never make an image of God, which means they were forbidden to fashion an idol and say, “This idol represents our God,” because they were _____ of God. They had been given exact plans for a portable temple. They had been told they were a kingdom of priests. And they had been told that someday they would have a permanent temple on a mountain in a land of their own.

If you read Genesis 1-2 with this first audience in mind, you hear the clear message: The earth is created to be God’s _____, and his image bearers serve both as his priests for the earthly temple and rulers over the earth. He ordains them and delegates his kingship and endows them with authority to rule in his name. We are designed to be royal priests.

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?





Made in the Image of God, Entrusted with His Work

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15

God creates us in his image, and as his image bearers we are called to do for God what God does—God works and _____.

Our work is _____. Our work is God entrusting us with responsibility.

God could have created the world to work on its own. Instead, God created us to work and rule as _____ of his world. Paradise included meaningful work, and so will the New Creation.

Stephen M.R. Covey "Green and Clean" story

The Invisible Made Visible

Your work is the _____ that makes the invisible God visible.

Works Consulted and Resources Recommended:

- "God Creates and Equips People to Work (Genesis 1:26-2:25)," Theology of Work Project at <https://bit.ly/3mZ6tQc>
- "Tim Keller - Why Work Matters" at <https://bit.ly/41HqxFE>
- BibleProject: "Royal Priests" videos and study notes.
- "You Are God's Mask" blog post at <https://bit.ly/3H3361y>

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What was the worst chore assigned to you as a kid (i.e., the one you hated most)?
3. Read Genesis 1:26-29 and 2:15. Complete the following sentence: "Adam and Eve are not on an eternal vacation in paradise. They work as they..."
4. Watch the BibleProject "Royal Priests of Eden" again (at least the first four minutes). What particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?