



# Week 3: How God Can Give Your Work A Meaningful Mission (Part 1)

## Sermon Notes

### I. Business

Gen. 1:26-28, Prov. 11:1, 22:16, Deut. 15:4-5

Working Purpose Statement for Business:

*To serve the community by providing goods and services that will enable them to flourish, and to serve employees by providing them with a living wage and opportunities to express at least a portion of their God-given identity through meaningful, creative work.*

### II. Government

Deut. 1:9-18

Working Purpose Statement for Government:

*To ensure justice and equity for the flourishing of all citizens through executive, judicial, military, law enforcement and community services.*

# Week 3 & 4: Discussion Guide

## Week 3

- 1) If you had an opportunity to hear the sermon, what were some of your biggest take-aways?
- 2) Make the rest of this MC a time to work individually and together on the exercise *Developing a Mission Statement for Your Work*. Share ideas, help each other find relevant scriptures, ask one another questions. Read through the attached *Summary of Different Work Domains* on the different domains of work with their *Working Purpose Statements* and suggested scriptures. Some might want to read the whole chapter devoted to their line of work, which can be found online at The Old Testament Template (web address below). Other resources are listed below.

Make this whole process a prayerful one, seeking God's guidance, wisdom, and direction as you develop your mission statement for work.

## Week 4

- 1) If you had an opportunity to hear the sermon, what were some of your biggest take-aways?
- 2) Take time to share your Mission Statement for Work with the rest of the group. Help each other make any refinements.
- 3) Pray for one another and your work, that God will enable you align your life with his purposes for your work.

## Additional Resources:

### The Old Testament Template

This is an excellent online resource on what the bible has to say about the different domains of work. The *Summary of Different Work Domains* below has been adapted from this source.

<http://templateinstitute.com/2011/09/read-the-old-testament-template-book-online/>

### Monday Church: Develop a Biblical Theology for Your Vocation

This site provides scriptures related to each domain of work and key questions to ask when reflecting on those scriptures.

<http://mondaychurch.publishpath.com/theology>

### In the Work Place

<http://www.intheworkplace.com/?affiliateid=204418>

This site has articles related to faith and work, including issues like ethics and money management.

### Bible Gateway

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

This website is a great tool for finding verses related to particular topic, or if you can remember a few words in a verse, but not where its located.

# Weeks 3 & 4 Exercise: Developing a Mission Statement for Your Work<sup>1</sup>

## Mission Statement for Work:

Your mission statement for work will include your Core Belief, Core Purpose, Core Principles, and Core Priorities. You want to make this mission statement for work *personal*. It should reflect your uniqueness as a human being as well as your unique role at work. You also want to make your mission statement *biblical*. Our core purpose, beliefs, principles, and priorities need to be shaped by God to maximize our fruitfulness and his glory.

## Core Belief

Your core beliefs lay a gospel foundation for your work. These should summarize your answers to the following questions: “Who is God?”, “What has God done for you?”, “Who are you because of what God has done for you?”, especially as it relates to work. Try to capture your core beliefs in just 1 to 3 sentences and include supporting scripture references.

Examples:

- As my Father, God has adopted me into his family and is my provider. I can trust him to meet my needs, not because of my hard work, but because of Jesus’ finished work on the cross.
- I am a child of God who has been forgiven and redeemed by Jesus Christ. I do not work for his approval, but I work for his glory out of gratitude for all that he has done for me.

## Core Purpose

Your core purpose states the overall reason for your work, as defined by scripture. This is where you state the biblical purpose of your work in a way that reflects your uniqueness. For help in developing your Core Purpose statement, read through *Summary of Different Work Domains* and recommended scriptures below.

Examples:

- Artist: To lead people to awe and worship through beautiful works of art.
- Technology Developer: To develop technology that enables people to communicate more effectively for the benefit of relationships, business, and the overall flourishing of society and glory of God who said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.
- Small Business Owner: To provide quality goods to our community at a fair price, employment opportunities for those needing work, and a store environment in which both customers and employees are cared for as people created in the image of God.

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<sup>1</sup> This process for developing a mission statement for work is based on the process of developing a mission statement for life in *What's Best Next: How the Gospel Transforms The Way You Get Things Done*, by Matt Perman.

## Core Principles

The core principles section of your mission statement contains the most important guiding principles for your work. Ask yourself, “What main principles from scripture are going to shape how I work?” Identify 3-5 core principles and site supporting scripture.

Examples:

- Go beyond my job requirements to serve others as an act of love
- Seek to live at peace with everyone at work, pursuing reconciliation whenever I have a conflict
- Make the welfare of my employees and customers my top priority, not my personal profit
- Be well organized, not for its own sake but to make it easier to serve others effectively

## Core Priorities

Your core priorities identify the most important things to do given your core belief, purpose, and principles. What do you need to prioritize in order to do your work in a way that aligns with these convictions? These will often involve practices and routines you need to build into your life. Identify 3-5 top priorities.

Examples:

- Before every decision, ask myself, “What is the most loving thing to do?”
- Confess any unresolved conflict at work to my DNA group to receive help and accountability in seeking reconciliation
- Schedule one lunch a week to meet with a different coworker or employee to discover how I can care for them and meet their needs
- Begin assessing the environmental impact of our company’s decisions in order to care for God’s creation
- While driving the kids to school each morning, ask them how I can pray for them, then pray for them
- Every Monday morning review my Mission Statement for Work

# **My Mission Statement for Work**

**Core Belief**

**Core Purpose**

**Core Principles**

**Core Priorities**

# Summary of Different Work Domains<sup>2</sup>

## Government

### PRIMARY ATTRIBUTES OF GOD:

Justice, Sovereignty

### WORKING PURPOSE STATEMENT:

To ensure justice and equity for the flourishing of all citizens through executive, judicial, military, law enforcement and community services. Great issues include: justice for the weak and voiceless in society including children, women, and immigrants.

### A NOTE TO THE GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONAL:

If you are a lawyer, judge, police officer, civil servant, soldier, elected official, social worker, or serve your nation's government in any capacity, you have a high calling from God. The pillars of God's kingdom are justice and righteousness, and your calling is to support the pillar of justice. You are challenged by scripture to be God's extension of His justice to the people whom you serve. It does not matter if you work in a system that is fair as Solomon did, or in one that is somewhat or thoroughly unjust as Joseph and Daniel did; you have a calling from God to give and work for the highest level of justice possible in the system. First, you must be just in your own dealings with people; then you must work to make the institutions, systems, and laws just. What would your nation look like if every Christian professional made this their passion and pursued it with a sense of call? God will start with one. Are you that one? Will you study to take on the mind of Christ in the political arena and apply what you are learning first to your own life and work, and then, where possible, to the institutions themselves? You are God's strategy for discipling your nation.

### KEY SCRIPTURES:

Deuteronomy 1:9-18

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Exodus 20

Exodus 21:1-17

II Samuel 23:2-4

Proverbs 31:8-9

Isaiah 9:6-7

Isaiah 33:22

Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 12:13-17

Acts 5:27-29

Romans 13:1-7

I Timothy 2:1-2

I Peter 2:13-17

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<sup>2</sup> These summaries are adapted from the book *An Introduction to The Old Testament Template* by Landa Cope. The whole book is available on line for further study at [www.templateinstitute.com](http://www.templateinstitute.com).

## Business

### PRIMARY ATTRIBUTES OF GOD:

Providence, Goodness

### WORKING PURPOSE STATEMENT:

To serve the community by providing goods and services that will enable them to flourish and to serve employees by providing them with a living wage and opportunities to express at least a portion of their God-given identity through meaningful and creative work.

### A NOTE TO THE BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL:

If you are a banker, a business person, a laborer, a manager, a store owner, a stock broker or a ditch digger who provides goods and services for your community or nation in any way, you are part of God's plan to reveal Jehovah Jireh, God our Provider. The Bible has as much to say about finance and its purpose in blessing a people as any other subject in scripture including salvation. Most view business today as a means to make money and nothing more. In scripture, business is a means to make money and a great deal more. In scripture, it is about provision, about quality of life, about demonstrations of goodness and blessing. The Bible speaks about the worship of work and the Creator of work, about skill and craftsmanship and the work being worthy of the maker. The creature reveals the Creator in the quality of his work just as the Creator has revealed Himself in the quality of His work. Community responsibility and creative solutions reveal the goodness of God to every level of our society. You have a call of God on your life. Like Joseph you are part of God's revelation of His ability to provide all that is needed in abundance. You are part of His plan to reveal the quality of the workman. What would happen if every Christian in the world showed up for work on time? Performed at their absolute best? Set their sights on blessing the community and company rather than blessing themselves? What would happen if every Christian who owned a business asked, "What does our community really need and how can we provide that and make a profit?" rather than "Where can we make the most money?" Before we can begin to dream, we must know what God wants us to dream. In order to know that, we must understand what He has already taught us in His Word. Does something stir in your heart as you read this? Are you one called of God to begin saturating yourself with the mind of Christ and then to apply it in your life and work? You are part of God's strategy for discipling your nation.

### KEY SCRIPTURES:

Deuteronomy 15:1-10

Matthew 20:1

Exodus 22:22-27

Proverbs 11:24-25

Proverbs 31:10-31

Ephesians 4:28

## Science and Technology

### PRIMARY ATTRIBUTES OF GOD:

Power, Order

### WORKING PURPOSE STATEMENT:

To discover and use God's laws for the blessing of all people, pursuing a higher standard of living, better health, and better stewardship of all God's natural resources. Great issues include: Prevention of disease, discovery, and stewardship.

### A NOTE TO THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL:

As a professional in the science domain, you have a high calling. You are the discoverers and stewards of God's material creation. You are called to know Him in a special way as He reveals Himself in the things He has made. You are called to use that knowledge to bless individuals, communities, and nations. No calling in God's Kingdom is second rate. No domain of revelation is more or less important than another; they are all created by God to reveal Himself. The pastor has one job and you have another. The missionary prays to be shown worthy of his calling and so should you. God makes His "cause and effect" relationship with man most evident in this domain. He uses His natural laws to humble us and reveal His awesome power and wisdom. Are you one of God's George Washington Carvers? Are you called to hold in your hand something of God's creation and say, "God, you made this and you said it was good. Why did you make this peanut, atom, DNA cell, planet, bug, tree?" The sky is not the limit. God's revelation of Himself stretches to the farthest reaches of the cosmos. How far is that? Perhaps He will use you to reveal that to us and strike us with awe again. You are part of God's strategy for discipling all nations.

### KEY SCRIPTURES:

Exodus 35:35-36:7

Deuteronomy 15:1-10

Job 38:4-11

Psalms 127:1

Amos 7:7, 8

Matthew 20:1

Matthew 7:24-27

Luke 14:28-30

Ephesians 2:19-22

Hebrews 11:3, 9-16, 12:28-29

Revelation 21:1-2

# Family

## PRIMARY ATTRIBUTES OF GOD:

Love, Nurture

## WORKING PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The purpose of family is to provide a safe, nurturing environment for growth, values, and development of the next generation. It is the smallest building block of human society. Great issues include: Love, discipline, modeling God's thinking, preparation for vocation of the children and the husband's love setting the tone of the home.

## A NOTE TO FAMILY PROFESSIONALS AND THOSE IN THE HOME FULL TIME:

Whether you are a stay-at-home parent, family counselor, family lawyer, social worker, or any other family-oriented professional, yours is one of the most important arenas in society. If the family is healthy, we will have healthy communities and, then, healthy nations. It is so important that you see your work and the role of family from God's perspective. We must touch family structures very lightly and invade only in the direst of circumstances. However, we must not allow abusive injustice to rule in any family. When and how to step into a family unit to save the individual is a vital and delicate balance. Only God's perspective and His wisdom can help us in individual cases and in making policies, guidelines and laws that bridle our profession's authority so that it does not destroy the very institution it is there to protect. You have a wonderful and sacred call; fulfill it in the wisdom and power of His Spirit.

## KEY SCRIPTURES:

Deuteronomy 5:16

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

Deut. 32:10-12

Deuteronomy 32:46-47

Num. 11:12

Proverbs 31:10-31

Is. 49:13-15

Is. 66: 10-13

Matt. 23:37

Ephesians 5:22-6:4

I Tim. 5:9-10, 14

Titus 2:3-5

Rev. 19:6-9

## Education

### PRIMARY ATTRIBUTE OF GOD:

Wisdom

### WORKING PURPOSE STATEMENT:

To provide for the development of the God-given gifts in every child for the service of their fellow man and society, believing every child is gifted by God and has the right for those gifts to be developed to their highest potential. Great issues include: Value-based integrated process with family involvement and support.

### A NOTE TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL:

Wherever I speak on this subject educational professionals ask me what they can do to influence their education system. The first thing I tell them is to study God's word until they believe they see learning from God's perspective. Zeal without wisdom is not good. Secondly, whatever their position, they can seek more parental involvement. As a teacher, they can communicate with and seek communication from their students' parents. They can organize parental dialogue about the school system and their classroom. In many countries parents can be invited to volunteer and add to the curriculum and classroom management. How we do it is not as important as what we believe is essential. The critical thing is that we understand God's principles. The applications will be dynamic to our community's specific situation. I love the story Bruce Olson conveys of his experiences with the Motilone Indians in South America. This tribe was Stone Age and almost entirely isolated from the outside world when Bruce went to live with them. An amazing move of God took place among these people and the entire tribe was converted to Christ. As they grew in God and began to understand more of the importance of scripture, they believed they needed to tackle the issue of education and learning to read. Rather than imposing a system on the Indians, Bruce Olson asked how they wanted to go about the process of education. The tribe decided that the elders needed to learn to read first so that they could then teach the children, otherwise the fiber of authority in the tribe would be destroyed. If the elders learned first, the importance of learning would be enhanced and they would be able to model for the children the value of learning to read. What a great application. As administrator and school board members we should be seeking influence and policy that brings back parental involvement and authority in our school system. This is not to say that government does not have a role in organizing and overseeing an educational system. It is to say the system must be as parent- and local-based in its authority as possible. As a local principal you can create a voice for parents whether in a formal or informal way. You can create a communication strategy that helps them feel informed and involved and you can help your classroom teachers do the same. I do not mean to imply that getting parents involved is an easy task. Apathy abounds. However, the more the parents are involved, the healthier the school system will be.

### KEY SCRIPTURES:

Exodus 33:12-13

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

Job 12:7-12

Proverbs 1:1-7

Proverbs 3:13-15

Proverbs 4:1-9

Luke 10:27

Luke 2:46-47

2 Corinthians 10:5

2 Timothy 2:2

## Communication

### PRIMARY ATTRIBUTE OF GOD:

Truth

### WORKING PURPOSE STATEMENT:

To provide truthful, objective information of importance to the community-at-large so that citizens can make informed decisions.

### A NOTE TO THE COMMUNICATION PROFESSIONAL:

I led a public relations work in Washington D.C. in the 80's and my media friends estimated at the time that of approximately 7,000 journalists working there, perhaps 20 or less were Christian. In some ways it was more popular among evangelicals to be a prostitute than a journalist. At least prostitutes were candidates for salvation; journalists were perceived as the "enemy." Things have improved, but this is still a ripe field ready for salt and light. I have worked with thousands of young people over the last three decades who want to become communication professionals. Because of the environment they have grown up in, they tend to define Christian media work as preaching on T.V. or radio. It is as though we are unable to think of a purpose in media beyond evangelization and church. This is the by-product of split thinking. I often ask people what a Christian wheel would look like. What would a Christian or biblical pilot do? Of course they have a hard time defining a "good" wheel or a "good" pilot because the very thing that makes a good pilot "good" is already a biblical view whether we realize it or not. If we take it a step further to news, entertainment, documentary, or any other area of communication...what does the "Christian" version look like? Are you part of a generation to find out?

### KEY SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 1:3

Genesis 1:26

Genesis 3:13

Exodus 20:16

Exodus 24:12 32:15-16

Proverbs 19:22

Proverbs 30:8

Mark 8:18

John 1:1-4, 14

John 8:42-47

John 15:15

Romans 3:4

II Corinthians 3:2-3

Ephesians 5:6

## Art, Entertainment, and Leisure

### PRIMARY ATTRIBUTES OF GOD:

Beauty, Glory

### WORKING PURPOSE STATEMENT:

To provide rest, relaxation and restoration of the soul through beauty, joy, and worship.

### A NOTE TO THE ART, ENTERTAINMENT, OR LEISURE PROFESSIONAL:

Whether you are gifted in body, ear or eye, your gift is a celebration of God and a part of the call of God on your life. We have been created by God to need and to celebrate beauty and joy. You are part of God's answer to that world of need. Everything God has made, whether we look at it macroscopically or microscopically, is beautiful and it was all created with sound. So, whether you are celebrating the use of your gift in the work of the church to minister to Christians or to minister to the many who do not go to church, you are ministering Christ. Whether you work with other Christians or non-Christians you are His testimony through your life and skill. You don't have to justify your gift by doing religious material or by kneeling in prayer when you do well, although you may do both. Your gift is justified because it is part of God's nature and character in you. It is part of who He is and how He has made you and the gift itself reveals God. The world needs your gift and the celebration of beauty and joy it brings. Do not hold back! Let's begin the new renaissance.

### KEY SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 1:1-31

Exodus 15:19-21

Exodus 31

Exodus 35:30 – 36:1

Deuteronomy 32:44

I Chronicles 25:1-7

II Chronicles 5:11- 14

Psalms 27:4

Psalms 96:1-13

Proverbs 31:19-24

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Song of Songs 1:1-4

Isaiah 61:3

Jeremiah 18:1-6

John 1:1

Acts 9:36-39

Revelation 21:23- 26

# Church

## PRIMARY ATTRIBUTES OF GOD:

Holiness, Mercy

## WORKING PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The ecclesiastical order is called to represent God to the people, and the people to God, providing for the discipleship of all believers in the whole nature and character of God and His Word applied to the work and walk of faith, to facilitate the expression of that faith in the worship and sacraments of the church, and to be a moral model of God's absolute standards of truth. Great issues include: Calling society to accountability to the Word of God.

## A NOTE TO THE MINISTRY PROFESSIONAL:

Some of you in the ministry today will be relieved by what I have said in this chapter, and some of you will be threatened. The pastor and missionary in the 20th Century have been expected by many to be all things to all men. For some, when we discuss "discipling the nations," they think all the work will be their responsibility. Some are hoping it will be. Whatever your perspective, I encourage us all to pursue God for a clear revelation of a working job description for ourselves and for each of our followers. Only when the 80 percent of the body of Christ not called to the ministry of the church are released to do what God has called them to do, can those of us in full-time ministry in the church begin to focus on our call. Some in the ministry have asked, "Why are we out there talking about discipling the nations instead of doing it?" I am not sure what they mean, however, this I do know: it is the responsibility of the "priesthood" to teach and clarify for the body of Christ its job. It is not our job to start businesses and banks; it is our job to teach and disciple business people and bankers in the full counsel of God as it relates to their calling. It is not our job to run the government and write the constitutions; it is our job to teach those who are called of God into those vocations how to carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the Word of God. It is not our job to be the father to the family, but to teach the father God's way of fathering. This is so clear and simple that I am sometimes flabbergasted by all the confusion. The only explanation I have for the volume of confusion is that we have so bought into the secular/sacred split we are unable to conceive of the call of God on those outside the "ecclesiastical" institution. We are not to bring all the domains under the church structure; we are to send the body of Christ away on Sunday prepared to be Christ's ambassadors of wisdom in their individual and specific domain callings. If we are to launch a generation prepared again to see qualitative differences in not only their lives, but in their communities, we must reintroduce an adequate theology of the laity, as well as of the "priesthood." The institution of the church has a pivotal role in discipling the nations if we understand what our role is and is not.

## KEY SCRIPTURES:

Numbers 1:47-50

Matthew 28:16-18

Acts 6:1-7

Ephesians 4

Titus 1:5

Timothy 3:1