



What would happen if followers of Jesus began to take the Word of God seriously and apply it where they spend almost 60% of their waking hours? What would happen if we began to reject the secular-sacred split that dominates our worldview? What would happen if God showed up in *irregular places*—offices, schools, construction sites, factories, and politics? What would happen? Workplaces, cities and nations would be transformed.

So, how do we do it—that is integrate faith and the workplace? How do we truly pray, as Jesus taught us, “Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven?” The journey begins with perspective. We must “re-imagine work.”

## WE HAVE BEEN DUPED

2 Corinthians 4:4, *The eyes of those who do not believe are made blind by Satan who is the god of this world.* (NLV)

1. There is a separation between **sacred** and **secular**.

This leads to a “disconnect” in which we compartmentalize our faith into two separate worlds.

We struggle to truly understand how to align our actions with our beliefs due to the tension between marketplace pressures and faith principles.

2. Work is a **curse**.

Genesis 3:17-19, *The LORD said to the man, "You ate fruit from that tree. And so, the ground will be under a curse because of what you did. As long as you live, you will have to struggle to grow enough food. Your food will be plants, but the ground will produce thorns and thistles. You will have to sweat to earn a living. (CEV)*

3. Work is **meaningless**.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-23, *I hated life, because work...was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. I hated all the things I had toiled for...because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the work into which I have poured my effort and skill...So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor...For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This is meaningless and a great misfortune. What does a man get for all the toil and anxious striving with which he labors? All his days his work is pain and grief; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is meaningless. (NIV)*

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Romans 12:2, *Do not be shaped by this world; instead be changed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect. (NCV)*

1. Jesus redeemed **work**.

Luke 19:10, *The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. (NASB)*

What was lost through the rebellion of the human race at the dawn of time, Jesus came to redeem and reconcile.

2. Work is a **privilege** and **destiny** of human beings.

*Genesis 2:15, The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (NIV)*

*John 5:17, My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working. (NIV)*

*Ephesians 2:10, God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.*

3. Our work has **purpose**.

*John 20:19, I am sending you into the world in the same way the father sent me into the world. (NLT)*

*Philippians 2:14-15, Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night. (Msg)*