

## Vocation – Part 2 of 4

# “How Are You Being Called By God to Be a Worker and a Family Member?”

Based on Various Passages

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 13<sup>th</sup> after Trinity

August 14 & 17, 2008 ► [Thursday at 7](#) • [Sunday at 8:15 & 10:45](#)

**Introduction:** God *made* you, *loves* you, and has a *master plan for your life* (Jeremiah 29:11; Ephesians 2:10); therefore, He has given you various *callings* or *vocations* – such as being a worker and family member! Through those vocations or callings *God wants to work through you to bless others*, even as *God works through others to bless you!*<sup>1</sup> Through *this sermon* God will show us how to properly proceed as workers and family members in our daily lives!

### 1. **Workers:**

- a. God was the *first worker* – creating all things in six days. God created a perfect environment for people; then, *upon the completion of His work*, the Bible says: “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” (1:31) Then, on the seventh day, *He rested!*
- b. God said to Adam and Eve: “Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’ ... [*Then in chapter 2*] The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (NIV Genesis 1:28; 2:15) Therefore, *our work is an imitation of God’s work!* But Adam’s work took place under two circumstances – *before the fall* with ease and

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see Martin Luther’s Table of Duties in the Small Catechism.

*after the fall* “through painful toil.” (3:16-19) As we approach our work today, let us remember that *God puts us on*, like a mask, *and works through us to bless others!* So let us use the abilities He has given to us *to love our neighbors as we love ourselves!*

- c. Worship or Work: Many struggle in this area, but think about the Third Commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.” That commandment is right up there with: *You shall not murder, commit adultery, or steal!* But God is not trying to force us to come to church; instead, *His command is filled with love!* God commanded the Sabbath rest for our benefit! Gene Veith wrote: “...the Sabbath is God’s gift to busy, distracted, weary human beings. He gives us a break, time to recharge our lives by spending time with Him, our families, and ourselves.” (God at Work, 64) The Sabbath is God’s gift to us – *and He compels us to gladly receive!*
- d. Christians are in the World but not of the World (see *John 17:14-18*): We are in the world as we live-out our God-given vocations! As we do so, we have opportunity to *shine the light of Christ* (Matthew 5:14, 16) upon people who may never have any contact with a pastor or a church!
- e. Christians Work and Rest: We faithfully do our work to ✦ fulfill our calling, ✦ use our God-given abilities, and ✦ help our neighbor according to His needs. However, at the same time, *we always rest in Jesus Christ!* ✦ He is God, ✦ He lived in our place, ✦ He died for our sins, ✦ He rose from the dead, and ✦ He opened heaven to all believers; therefore, *let us always rest in Him for our salvation and be at peace!*

2. **Family Members:** What are you – a wife, husband, son, daughter, mother, or father? *All of us have one or more of those vocations!*
- a. Origin of Families: Adam *from the dust*, Eve *from his rib*, but, *since then*, God has brought all people into the world *through other people!* From only two – a husband and a wife – *God can bring forth a multitude of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren!*
- b. Relationships within Families (Colossians 3:18-21):
- i. Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.” In other words, see your husband as wearing a mask of Christ – *and submit to him!* As the church willingly submits to Christ, *so wives should do so to their husbands!*
- ii. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.” In other words, sacrifice for your wife – *even to the extent of laying down your life!* As Christ willingly laid down His life for the church, *so husbands should be willing to do so for their wives!*
- iii. Parents, God has worked through you to *make your children* and wants to work through you to *train your children*. Gene Veith noted: “It is the parent’s job, or rather vocation, to ‘train up a child in the way he should go.’” (85; Proverbs 22:6) *(The Bible also has this instruction for parents in regard to their children: see Deuteronomy 6:6-9)*
- iv. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.” In other words, obey your parents – *because they represent God in your life!* This is a further reason as written by Luther and

quoted by Gene Veith: “Children...need to ‘realize that they have received their bodies and lives from their parents and have been nourished and nurtured by their parents when otherwise they would have perished a hundred times in their own filth... Those who look at the matter in this way and think about it will, without compulsion, give all honor to their parents and esteem them as ones through whom God has given them everything good.” (89; Large Catechism, 404)

- v. “Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.” So disciple them, but do so in love! *Jesus said: “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline...”* (NAS Revelation 3:19) No matter what the world says, *discipline done in love is best for all children!*
- vi. Older Children, the Bible says: “...put [your] religion into practice by caring for [your] own family and so repaying [your] parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. ... If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (NIV 1 Timothy 5:4, 8)

**Conclusion:** As Christian *workers* and *family members*, let us constantly ✦ remember God’s presence in our daily lives, ✦ *rejoice in His forgiveness in Christ*, and ✦ live-out our callings unto His glory! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

*Some ideas in this sermon are from God at Work, by Gene Edward Veith, Jr., Crossway Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 2002.*

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