



Women Devoted to God

Lesson 09

Fulfilling God's Design for My Vocation

Responsibilities, Opportunities, Cautions and Kudos

by Inge Cannon

¹⁴ *Do all things without grumbling or disputing;*
¹⁵ *so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless
and innocent, children of God above reproach
in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation,
among whom you appear as lights in the world.*

Philippians 2:14-15

The Theology of Work

Vocare = “to call”

Latin root for words such as voice, vocal, vocabulary, vocation
“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” (John 10:27)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

“The priesthood of all believers’ did not make everyone into church workers; rather it turned every kind of work into a sacred calling.” Gene Edward Veith



“There is no difference between the secular and the sacred; all ground is holy ground, every bush a burning bush.”

Bob Jones, Sr.

Work as a “Holy Service” for God

“The Reformation, concerned primarily with the individual’s relationship with God, bore fruit in the secular realm with social mobility, an economic boom, and eventually political freedoms.”

“The doctrine of vocation encourages attention to each individual’s uniqueness, talents, and personality. These are valued as gifts of God, who creates and equips each person in a different way for the calling He has in mind for that person’s life.”

Gene Edward Veith

“Protestant Work Ethic”



Martin Luther’s view: “Vocation is a manifestation of God’s action, not our own. . . . It is a realm in which we can experience God’s love and grace, both in the blessings we receive from others, and in the way God is working through us, despite our failures.”



Vocation as “A Mask of God”

“God hides Himself in the workplace, the family, the church, and the seemingly secular society. . . . To realize that the mundane activities that take up most of our lives are hiding places for God can be a revelation in itself. . . . To find Him in vocation makes us see how close He really is in us, and transfigures everyday life.”

Gene Edward Veith

The King will answer and say to them, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.” (Matthew 25:40)

God’s Providence

“God’s providence is His most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing of all His creatures and all their actions to His own glory.”

Pastor Mark Minnick, *Treeology Theology* #27
(adapted from the Westminster Shorter and Larger catechisms)

“The benefit of our knowing about God’s providence is that it makes us patient in adversity and thankful in prosperity, so that we may place our firm trust in our Heavenly Father concerning everything that befalls us.”

Pastor Mark Minnick, *Treeology Theology* #28
(adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism)

Vocational Directives

- ✓ Each person is to love his/her neighbors and to serve them with the gifts appropriate to each vocation.

“Who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:25-37

- ✓ What is permissible in one vocation is not necessarily permissible in another.
One way to define sin is as a violation of one’s calling.
- ✓ We have multiple callings, and these may change.

Vocational Boundaries

- ✓ Our work should reflect our creation in God’s image.
(Genesis 1:26-31)
- ✓ Our work is virtue, but it is tainted by the Fall.
(Genesis 3:16-19)
- ✓ Our work must be balanced with rest.
(Genesis 2:1-3; Hebrews 4; Psalm 103; and the example of our Lord Jesus Christ)
- ✓ Our work must highlight that we are in the world, but not of it. (John 17:15-18, Romans 12:1-2, and I John 2:15-17)



Assessing Vocational Choices

1. Does the prospective opportunity violate a clear teaching of God's Word? Does it offer me a position for which I am not Scripturally eligible? Does it require that I function in those ways though perhaps without an official title?

2. What are my motives in accepting and fulfilling the prospective role? Does the role continually pull me "out of balance" internally with my best efforts to magnify God's design with my life?

3. Does the prospective opportunity enable me to display and develop the "help" dimension for which women were especially created and gifted by God?

4. Does the prospective opportunity enable me to assist my own or other families in their mission to fulfill Genesis 1:26-27? If so, in what ways could I make it clear to those who work with me that this is my objective?

5. Would the prospective opportunity allow me to contribute specific insights and perspectives . . .
 - ✓ From a Christian point of view?
 - ✓ From a single woman's point of view?
 - ✓ That are unique to my specific divinely-given gifts?

6. How do I typically respond to male leadership or influence others to respond? Do I honestly appreciate the role that God has given to men and recognize challenges they face to fulfill it or temptations they encounter that discourage them from being all that God intended them to be?

The “Lady” in Charge and the “Chip on the Shoulder”

“Christianity teaches righteousness, not rights. It emphasizes honor, not equality. A Christian’s concern is what is owed to the other, not what is owed to himself.” Elisabeth Elliot



Character on Display

Be a Christian first!

- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Integrity
- ✓ Dependability
- ✓ Honesty

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”
(Matthew 5:16)

The Message of Modesty

Our mandate from 2 Timothy 2:9-10:

- ✓ **Kosmeo** (kos-meh'-oh) = put in proper order
- ✓ **Aidos** (ahee-dose') = “shamefastness” or embarrassed
- ✓ **Sophrosune** (so-fros-oo'-nay) = soundness of mind or self-control

You are your brother’s keeper!

Women should adorn themselves with well-arranged clothing that demonstrates an unwillingness to embarrass themselves or their Savior and an attitude that appearance is a serious matter which demands good judgment and wise choices.

The Message of Courtesy

Rudeness and crudeness are rampant.

"It takes so little to be above average." Florence Litthauer

Goal = putting your neighbor at ease!

Resources

God at Work by Gene Edward Veith (Crossway)

Discipline: The Glad Surrender by Elisabeth Elliot
(Fleming H. Revell)

The Etiquette Advantage by June Hines Moore
(Broadman & Holman)

Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood by John Piper and
Wayne Grudem (Crossway)

*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, **to those who are called** according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, **He also called**; and **these whom He called**, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. (Romans 8:28-30)*