



Core Seminars – Engaging the World  
**Christians in the Workplace**  
Week 8

Course outline

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***The Story of Work***

Week 1: A Biblical Theology of Work  
Week 2: The Problem with Work

***Our Work as the Redeemed***

Week 3: A New Boss: How Jesus' Work Changes Our Work  
Week 4: A New Goal: Success is Faithfulness

***How We Work***

Week 5: Motivation: Faithfulness Changes Why We Work  
Week 6: Relationships: Imaging Christ in the Workplace  
Week 7: Balance: Christians Are *Not* Balanced People  
Week 8: Gender: Being Who You Are in the Workplace  
Week 9: Ethics: Case Studies for the Modern Workplace  
Week 10: Finding a Job: Putting First Things First  
Week 11: Evangelism: Sharing Christ With Your Colleagues  
Week 12: Work at different stages of life

Week 13: Panel Q&A

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Suggested resources:

- *The Masculine Mandate* by Phillips
- *Feminine Appeal* by Mahaney
- *Did I Kiss Marriage Goodbye* by McCulley

**Gender:  
Being Who You Are in the Workplace**

1) **Introduction**

2) **Gender and work**

In the Bible, gender and work are inextricably linked.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." – Genesis 2:15-18

The human race became male and female in part because of a problem in the workplace.

Three observations:

1. Gender is good.
2. Gender is all-encompassing.
3. In Genesis, gender is most clearly described in the context of marriage.

### **3) Implications for the married**

In Genesis 2, the husband is oriented to the task; the wife is oriented to the husband.

*For Husbands*

1. You need your wife in every area of your life.
2. You are responsible as a steward.

*For Wives*

1. You are your husband's helper in every assignment Jesus has given you.
2. You are oriented toward home in a way your husband isn't.

### **4) Implications for the not-yet married**

Most people get married (though singleness is a worthy life-long calling, 1 Corinthians 7).

*Single men:* building a career with a focus on provision.

*Single women:* building a career with a focus on provision and flexibility.

For both men and women: marketable skills will help you pursue both provision and flexibility.

Is this unfair? Remember: Jesus' goals for your work are very different than the world's goals.

### **5) Implications regardless of marriage**

Male and female are who we are, not just in marriage.

- The essence of masculinity is a posture of protecting and providing—in a way that's appropriate for a man's different relationships with women.
- The essence of femininity is a posture of helping leadership—in a way that's appropriate for a woman's different relationships with men.

Three considerations:

1. Be who you are (in Christ).
2. Look for opportunities to express your gender in the workplace.
3. Some jobs/roles will have more tension with who you are in your gender than will others.