

WEEKLY REFLECTION

As God finishes His work of creation, He gives to mankind a blueprint for perfect and good living. The rest and restoration of the Sabbath is part of this blueprint as God Himself rests on Adam's first day (Gen. 2:2-3).

From verse 4 onwards, Genesis 2 zooms in to give us a micro view of creation: it tells us how God formed Adam from the dust and dirt of the ground and breathed life into him. (v.7) It tells us how He planted a garden in Eden and put Adam to work there. (v.8, 15) It tells us too that God created Eve to be Adam's companion, a helper fit for him. (v.18)

Genesis 2 shows us that God's blueprint for perfect and good living includes good relationship with God, with work, and with community. An example of this is the usage of God's personal name from verse 4 onwards, *Yahweh Elohim* instead of God's title only, which is *Elohim*. The triune God who exists in perfect community desired relationship with man and saw that it was not good for him to be alone. Thus He established relationship with His creation and created Eve, the first woman, as a companion for Adam. (v.21-22)

Adam receives Eve with perfect joy as he bursts into a poem of delight. (v.23) Together, they are tasked with the work of filling the earth and having dominion over it (Gen. 1:28), work that Adam is seen doing as he names the animals. (Gen. 2:19-20a) His work echoes what God was doing in creation and is meant to point back towards Him. Sadly, the curse of sin and brokenness in Genesis 3 changed everything. Nothing is what it was meant to be.

But we who hold fast to Christ have the good news of the gospel. As we long for more, let us look towards the One who will make all things new. (Rev. 21:1-5)

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

As we reflect on the fact that we were created for more—can you think of a light-hearted moment where you acknowledged that you were totally out of your depth, or you felt completely out of place? On the flip side, do you have a unique and niche skill or talent that isn't used much in your day-to-day life?

QUESTION TWO:

Do you identify more with the pre-fall aspect of work (where you seek to be faithful and to glorify God), or the modern-day post-fall aspect (where work has become a source of identity and (un)fulfillment) instead?

Although work has become tedious and exhausting due to the curse of sin, what would change if we viewed our tasks as opportunities to steward and reassemble the raw materials of creation, similar to God's work in Genesis 1?

QUESTION THREE:

Which area of relationship (with God, with work, and with community) do you struggle the most with? What is a specific struggle that you have been experiencing in this season, and how can Jesus point you towards the hope of restoration in Him?