

99 Truths About Work, Economics and Human Flourishing

GOD	CREATION	HUMANITY	MORAL ORDER	PURPOSE
<i>Has to do with the nature, character and role of God.</i>	<i>Has to do with all that is made and sustained by God.</i>	<i>Has to do with who and what humans are and do.</i>	<i>Has to do with right behavior and responsibility.</i>	<i>Has to do with intention and meaning.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is the first and finest worker. • God has continued to work even after His initial creation of all things. • God’s work includes gardening, teaching, designing, building, ruling, judging, surgery, shepherding, farming, writing, public speaking, and more. • God can do anything He chooses, and no work is too difficult for Him. • God created all things out of His own thought and voice, and without Him, nothing that humans work with could exist. • God continuously sustains all things in the material world. • God is sovereign over all things. • God owns all things—the material world is His “stuff.” • God determined before the creation of Adam and Eve that humans would govern over (steward) all things on earth. • God is the ultimate and final authority above all earthly authorities, including every authority connected with human employment and governance. • God values all workers. • God is present everywhere at once, and there is no workplace He does not inhabit. • God knows every worker’s thoughts, and the motive of every worker’s heart. • God communicates with human beings, and will guide them in the way they should work, and the work they should do. • God’s Word provides guidance for all sorts of work, and equips people to do it in the right way. • God despises false measures of value, and any gains made from deception are an abomination to Him, but He delights in honest valuations. • God holds all people accountable for how they work and how they spend their time at work. • God forgives any worker who sins. • God is merciful to workers. • God is the perfect Judge of our work, with all of His judgments being true and just. • God is the giver of every good and perfect gift at work and elsewhere. • God loves a cheerful giver, at work and elsewhere. • God works through human beings. • God gives people the ability to produce wealth, but with wealth comes a tendency to forget Him. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entire material world we work in was spoken into existence by the Designer’s willing choice. • All of God’s creation is a demonstration of work that is not only good but great. • All the material things humans work with are continually held together by God. • The created realm we work in includes both physical and spiritual realities made by God. • The created realm includes both temporal and eternal realities made by God. • All of the material creation speaks of God’s power and authority. • The earth has been plagued by corruption and decay since humanity’s first sin, and no human work is impervious to its effects. • The material world has not been forsaken by God, in spite of the entrance of the Fall and the fact that His world is broken and in need of restoration. • Pain and suffering are realities in a fallen world, but work itself is not a curse. • The material world, though in a fallen state, remains God’s own possession, and therefore has great significance for both God and humanity. • The material world, though in a fallen state, is a realm God intends for humans to manage and govern. • One day, a New Earth shall replace this current fallen world, and all things shall be made new, and fully reconciled to Christ. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humans were created by God to work. • Man and woman were specially created in the likeness and image of God so that they could engage in the First Commission to rule over all the earth. • People who use their God-given gifts and abilities in their work will excel, and receive recognition from others for their work. • Through good work and good works, humans glorify God. • Work done for self-centered reasons does not satisfy. • Humans filled with the Spirit of God to do excellent work reveal what truly good work is, to the glory of God. • Since the entrance of sin into the world, all workers naturally tend to go their own way rather than God’s way. • Pain, suffering and sorrow are the result of the Fall [the first sin of Adam and Eve], and this has had serious on-going consequences for all human work. • People in debt are enslaved to the lenders, and should fulfill their obligation as soon as possible. • People who practice self-control (including the control of one’s spending) are more secure and free. • Remember the poor, and those in need. • Possessing little money yet having respect for the Lord is better than having great riches with disregard for the Lord. • Those that squander resources are unwise, and such actions will lead to want. • Laziness leads to poverty, but diligence and discipline keep it at bay. • People who give generously will experience greater joy than those who receive. • People who have legal rights or responsibilities for property will have greater incentive to take care of those things, and be more concerned about its loss or abuse. • People who are envious of other people’s income are unwise, and do themselves harm. • All workers have been given gifts by God for the purpose of building the Body of Christ. • All believers in Christ have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them, empowering them to live a godly life and to do truly good work. • Humans are God’s workmanship, created for doing the good work He conceived of ahead of time for them to do, even before Adam and Eve were made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two foremost responsibilities workers have are to love the Lord with all their heart, mind and strength, and to love their neighbors as themselves. • God’s work is truly good work, and truly good work is God’s work (things He wants done). • Moral order in every workplace is ultimately determined by God. • God’s moral order is designed for the good of all workers. • Rest is part of God’s order for work. • The moral order of God is universal, non-optional and non-negotiable, being applicable to every human endeavor. • Although workers have the God-given ability to break God’s moral order, they do not have the right to break it. • Humans are responsible and accountable to God for all their work. • Since the Fall, workers have experienced an internal problem with sin – a natural “bent” to go their own way rather than God’s way, and to be a law unto themselves. • God’s moral order applies to all workers, in all circumstances and all endeavors. • The work of doing justice is a good work. • Private property rights are to be protected without bias or favoritism. • Contracts are to be fulfilled, and evenhandedly enforced, regardless of the financial state of either party. • Do not co-sign for another person’s debt. • Those who do the work should partake of the reward. • Creating added value that generates gain above cost (i.e., producing profit) can benefit both producers as well as consumers, and allow each to bless the other. • While high supply and low demand may pull prices down, and low supply and high demand may push prices up, care must be taken to not abuse this principal (as may be done through artificial manipulation) to the detriment of others, both producers and consumers. • Hoarding [“heaping up”] wealth for one’s own selfish indulgence is foolish, and will not provide enduring security, or lasting satisfaction. • Money can be a blessing, but loving it and trusting in it leads to all sorts of trouble, and counts for nothing. • Pay all workers a fair and impartial wage. • The discipline of living within a budget curbs spending, sets priorities, and helps people recognize their financial state. • Frugality is wise, and it is pleasing to the Lord. • Genuine human freedom is the internal self-control that comes from moral self-government under God – through the enablement of the Holy Spirit – regardless of any circumstances at work. • If people in leadership roles are self-serving, heavy-handed or corrupt, workers may want to give up, or get back at those who are in charge. • Pay your taxes. • Pay a fair market wage, and a fair market price, without expecting people to do things for you at a cut rate. • With wealth comes the responsibility to use it rightly. • Count the costs before you build. • It is right and good for those with financial resources to pass them on to their children and their grandchildren, or other family members. • Those who are generous with others will receive generosity themselves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The First Commission God gave to humanity was to fill the earth and rule over it. • The will of God is to be lived out on earth as it is in heaven. • Believers in the workplace are to be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.” • Good work is for the glory of God, and God-glorifying work is truly good. • Good work recognizes the preeminence of Christ in all things, putting Him first in word, deed and desire. • Work done out of the love of Christ is work done for Christ. • Work has purpose when done for Christ’s pleasure. • Wealth can be a blessing, but to make attaining it your aspiration and goal is foolish and painful. • Neither poverty nor wealth are virtues in and of themselves, and neither one is a worthy goal per se. • The purpose of saving money is to get through lean times and to provide for the future. • A good reputation is better than riches. • Do all your work as working for the Lord, even when not paid for it. • God seeks to do His will on earth as it is in heaven, and by His grace, He will work through redeemed people to bring His light to every sphere of life.

The term “human flourishing” here refers to an abundant life that has meaning, purpose and hope, with a deep sense of satisfaction and completeness that can only come from living life as God intended. “Flourishing” here refers to an overall well-being and wholeness, whether it is relational, economic or otherwise, that comes only from being in unity with God and His purposes. The biblical word for this is *shalom*. This document is courtesy of *Worldview Matters*, www.biblicalworldview.com. © 2016 Christian Overman. This resource may be freely copied and distributed, but not for re-sale in any form.