

#1 – A New Better Normal

Pastor Ben Graham

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**April 11, 2021**

**New Better Work**

**Big Idea: We are created to for to God.**

**New Better Normal**

1 Corinthians 10:31 “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

Colossians 1:16 “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”

**We are created to work.**

**Eph. 2:10**For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**Jer. 29:4-7** **4**“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5**Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. **6**Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. **7**But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

**Genesis 2:15** **15**The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

**2 Thessalonians 3:10-12** **10**For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. **11**For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. **12**Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

**We are created to work meaningfully.**

**Eph 6:5-9 5**Bondservants, obey your earthly masterswith fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, **6**not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, **7**rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, **8**knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.**9**Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

**We are created to work meaningfully for Jesus.**

**Eph 5:21** submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**Colossians 3:23-24** **23**Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,**24**knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

**We are created to work meaningfully for Jesus to glorify God.**

**Eph 1:12 12**so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** **31**So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**Growth Group Questions**

**New Better Work**

[FoothillsBibleChurch.org/growth-groups](https://www.foothillsbiblechurch.org/growth-groups/)

**Big Idea**: We are created to **work** **meaningfully** for **Jesus** to **glorify** God.

**Goal:**Reorient our view of work with a gospel worldview resulting in better, more enjoyable, God-glorifying work.

**Prepare**

This week we are diving into Ephesians and other Scripture asking God to reorient our view of work to His. The personal preparation time and discussion are meant to help us flesh out what we have learned through the sermon and apply it more thoroughly in our lives together.

**Watch**Pastor Ben's sermon, *New Better Work*, noting anything memorable and impactful as you go. You can take notes in the FBC app if you would like.

**Read**Genesis 2:15 (all of 1-3 would help, too); Jeremiah 29:1-14; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 1:12, 2:8-10, 5:21, 6:5-9; Colossians 3:23-24; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

**Memorize and Recite Together:**1 Corinthians 10:31 "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

**Pray**"Father, help us become people who, whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we do all to the glory of God."

**Connect**

1. Describe some areas of life you had to rethink or reorder this past year which have led to a "new normal" for you and how it has made life better.

**Discussion**Take some time to personally reflect on these questions after viewing the sermon and before your G2. It could make for a great morning devotional time! You can type and save your responses in the FBC app privately if you would like.

1. What did you learn about God and yourself from this sermon and passage and what would you like to see change in your life because of it?
2. What is your work, paid or not, and how does it create, collaborate, and/or cultivate?
3. **Read Colossians 3:23-24**. What does it mean to "work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" and how will you practically apply this in your work?
4. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:31**. Share some examples of ways you work for God's glory versus your own.
5. **Read Matthew 25:14-30**. The man going on a journey is a picture of Jesus who left this world when He ascended to heaven and will one day return to it in power and glory. What should we be doing in the meantime and how do the master's words in vss. 21 and 23 motivate us?
	1. How does the third servant's description of the master's character in vss. 24-25 show he misunderstood what his master was like? Was he really a servant?
	2. What excited you about being in charge of an economy entrusted specifically to you by Jesus?
6. **Read Jeremiah 29:4-7**. How could you be more intentional about making a positive contribution to the common good in your community?

**Closing Prayer** This prayer section is a guide to help you process with God what you have learned about Him and yourself through the sermon, personal preparation time, and discussion, then seek the Holy Spirit's power in applying it in your life. Sharing these responses in your G2 will help others gain insight into God and themselves while also helping and encouraging one another toward growth.

1. **Admire:**Praise God for His creativity, cultivation, and collaborating with you in it!
2. **Admit:**Confess ways you look down on some kinds of work or workers, including yourself.
3. **Aspire:**Pray as a group, "Father, help us become people who, whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we do all to the glory of God."
4. **Ask**: Ask God to give you a fresh vision of how you can increase the welfare of your community. Keep track of requests and celebrations from others in your G2 and pray for them.