

# 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"> <li>• God is the first and finest worker.</li> <li>• God has continued to work even after His initial creation of all things.</li> <li>• God works like a landscaper, potter, teacher, doctor, rancher, metalworker, King, and more.</li> <li>• God can do anything He chooses, and no work is too difficult for Him.</li> <li>• God created all things out of His own thought and voice, and without Him, nothing that humans work with could exist.</li> <li>• God continuously sustains all things in the material world.</li> <li>• God is sovereign over all things.</li> <li>• God owns all things—the material world is His “stuff.”</li> <li>• God determined before the creation of Adam and Eve that humans would govern over (steward) all His things on earth.</li> <li>• God is above all earthly authority systems, including every authority connected with human employment and governance.</li> <li>• God values all workers.</li> <li>• God is present everywhere at once, and there is no workplace He does not inhabit.</li> <li>• God knows every worker’s thoughts, and the motive of every worker’s heart.</li> <li>• God communicates with human beings, and will guide them in the way they should work, and the work they should do.</li> <li>• God’s Word provides guidance for all sorts of work that is good, and it equips people to do it in a right way.</li> <li>• God despises false measures of value, and any gains made from deception are an abomination to Him, but He delights in honest valuations.</li> <li>• God holds all people accountable for how they work and how they spend their time.</li> <li>• God forgives any worker who sins.</li> <li>• God is merciful to workers.</li> <li>• God is the perfect Judge of our work, with all of His judgments being true and just.</li> <li>• God is the giver of every good and perfect gift at work and elsewhere.</li> <li>• God loves a cheerful giver.</li> <li>• God accomplishes His work through human beings.</li> <li>• God gives people the power to create wealth, but with wealth comes a tendency to forget Him.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The entire material world we work in was spoken into existence by the Designer’s willing choice.</li> <li>• All of God’s creation is a demonstration of work that is not only good but great.</li> <li>• All the material things humans work with are continually held together by God.</li> <li>• The created realm we work in includes both physical and spiritual realities made by God.</li> <li>• The created realm includes both temporal and eternal realities made by God.</li> <li>• All of the material creation speaks of God’s power and authority.</li> <li>• The earth has been plagued by corruption and decay since humanity’s first sin, and no human work is impervious to its effects.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Pain and suffering are realities of a fallen world, but work itself is not a curse.</li> <li>• The material world, though broken and in need of restoration, remains God’s own possession, and therefore has great significance for both God and humanity.</li> <li>• The material world is a realm God intends for humans to manage and govern.</li> <li>• A high supply of goods with low demand will pull prices down, while a low supply of goods with high demand will push prices up.</li> <li>• One day, a New Earth shall replace this current world, and all things shall be made new, and fully reconciled to Christ.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humans were created by God’s design to be workers.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• People who use their God-given gifts and abilities in their work will excel, and receive recognition from others for their work.</li> <li>• Good work serves the common good.</li> <li>• Work done for self-centered reasons never fully satisfies.</li> <li>• Humans filled with the Spirit of God can do excellent work, revealing to others what truly good work is, to the glory of God.</li> <li>• Since the entrance of sin into the world, all workers naturally tend to go their own way rather than God’s way.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• People in debt are enslaved to the lenders, and should fulfill their obligation as soon as possible.</li> <li>• People who practice self-control (including the control of one’s spending) are more secure and free.</li> <li>• Remember the poor, and those in need.</li> <li>• Possessing little money yet having respect for the Lord is better than having great riches with disregard for the Lord.</li> <li>• People (and nations) that squander their resources are unwise, and such actions will lead to want.</li> <li>• Laziness leads to poverty, but diligence and discipline keep it away.</li> <li>• People who give generously will have greater joy than those who receive.</li> <li>• People who work to own things have a greater incentive to take care of their things.</li> <li>• People who are envious of other people’s income are unwise, and they do themselves harm.</li> <li>• All workers have been given gifts by God for the purpose of building the Body of Christ and blessing the nations.</li> <li>• All believers in Christ have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them, empowering them to live a godly life and to do truly good work.</li> <li>• Humans are God’s “workmanship,” made for doing the good work He prepared ahead of time for them to do, before Adam and Eve were created.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God’s work is truly good work, and truly good work is God’s work (i.e., things He wants done).</li> <li>• Moral order in every workplace is ultimately determined by God.</li> <li>• God’s moral order is designed for the good of all workers.</li> <li>• Rest is part of God’s order for work.</li> <li>• The moral order of God is universal, non-optional and non-negotiable, being applicable to every human endeavor.</li> <li>• Although workers have the God-given ability to break God’s moral order, they do not have the right to break it.</li> <li>• Humans are responsible and accountable to God for all their work.</li> <li>• Since the Fall, workers have experienced an internal problem with sin – a natural “bent” to go our own way rather than God’s way, and to be a law unto ourselves.</li> <li>• God’s moral order applies to all workers, in all circumstances and all endeavors.</li> <li>• The work of providing justice is a good work.</li> <li>• Private property rights are to be protected without bias or favoritism.</li> <li>• Contracts are to be fulfilled, and evenhandedly enforced, regardless of the financial state of either party.</li> <li>• Do not co-sign for another person’s debt.</li> <li>• Those who sow should be allowed to reap, and those who grow the fruit should decide how the profits are dispensed.</li> <li>• Profit is the reward for creating products and services that bring greater benefit to the consumer than the producer spent to make.</li> <li>• Hoarding [“heaping up”] wealth for your own selfish indulgence is foolish, and will not provide enduring security, or lasting satisfaction.</li> <li>• Money can be a blessing, but loving it and trusting in it leads to all sorts of trouble, and counts for nothing.</li> <li>• Pay all workers a fair and impartial wage, not paying less to those who may have a lower standard of living.</li> <li>• The discipline of a budget curbs spending, sets priorities, and holds all participants accountable for staying out of debt.</li> <li>• Frugality is wise, and it is pleasing to the Lord.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Excessive taxation is a burden that stifles growth and can incite rebellion.</li> <li>• Pay your taxes.</li> <li>• Pay a fair market wage, and a fair market price, without expecting people to do things for you at a cut rate.</li> <li>• With wealth comes the responsibility to use it rightly.</li> <li>• Count the costs before you build.</li> <li>• It is right and good for those with financial resources to pass them on to their children and their grandchildren, or other family members.</li> <li>• Those who are generous with others will receive generosity themselves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The First Commission that God gave to humanity was to fill the earth and rule over it.</li> <li>• The will of God is to be done on earth as it is in heaven.</li> <li>• Believers in the workplace are to bless the nations as the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.”</li> <li>• Truly good work glorifies God, and God-glorifying work is truly good.</li> <li>• The purpose of all things centers in Christ’s purpose for all things.</li> <li>• Work done out of the love of Christ is work done for Christ.</li> <li>• All workers have purpose and value in God’s sight.</li> <li>• Wealth can be a blessing, but to make attaining it your aspiration (being greedy and laying it up for yourself), is foolish and painful.</li> <li>• Poverty is not a virtue, nor should it become one’s aim.</li> <li>• The purpose of saving money is to get through lean times and to provide a base for future business ventures.</li> <li>• A good reputation is better than riches.</li> <li>• Do all your work as working for the Lord, even when you aren’t paid for it.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

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](http://www.biblicalworldview.com). © 2016 Christian Overman. This resource may be freely copied and distributed, but not for re-sale in any form.