# Vocation IS Ministry

*Our abilities, whatever they may be, are God-given.*

*Our work, no matter what we do, matters to God.*

*Our jobs, well done, show our love for others.*

**Episode One: Work in Everyday Life**

Everything is sacred, God is the originator, the sustainer of all things,

nothing is “secular” - all things are sacred.

In **All Things** may God be praised (1 Pet 4:11); He gives life to **All Things** (Neh 9:6; 1 Tim 6:13); He gives us **All Things** (Acts 17:25; 2 Pet 1:3); **All Things** are created for, by, & through (Prov 16:4; Col 1:16); He is upholding **All Things** by the word of His power (Heb 1:3); He is before **All Things,** by Him **All Things** consist (Col 1:17); Through Him to reconcile to himself **All Things** (Col 1:20); In **All Things** He might have preeminence (Col 1:18); Until the time comes for God to restore **All Things** (Acts 3:21); He will make **All Things** new (Rev 21:5); **All Things** for us to enjoy (1 Tim 6:17); Give thanks for **All Things** (Eph 5:20)

Extraordinary through Ordinary Read the laws of Exodus, Leviticus, or Deuteronomy. The focus is always God’s view of ordinary life. Genesis 45:5, 7, 9

*In the Midst of Chaos: Caring for Children as Spiritual Practice*. Bonnie Miller-McLemore asks the question “What about the rest of us who invest in the daily life of family?” which motivates her belief that her parental vocation informs everything else, what we call “the ordinary.”

Priesthood of All believers Ex 19.6 “You will be to me a kingdom of priests” Is 61.6 “You shall be as priests to the Lord” 1 Pet 2.5, 9 “You are being built up as a holy, royal priesthood.”

Rev 5.10 “You have made them a kingdom of priests to reign on the earth” [Robin’s 2nd grade class motto “Give God Glory” Belief informs behavior]

What is “glory”? “Weight gain” as a negative connotation. In the Bible “weight” is something good. In fact, to be “heavy” in Scripture means one has “glory.” *Kavod, Doxa* (doxology). Any human, earthly glory is derived from, given by God. 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 How are humans able to glorify God? since we are made in God’s image, our responsibility is to reflect God, we are reflecting the glory of God, **we glorify what we image**. Christians are to “throw God’s weight around” – what it means to glorify God.

We Throw God’s weight around (giving God glory) by: How we live our lives (1 Co 10.31)

How we suffer (Rom 8.17); How we endure with patience (Col 1.11); How we expect what is to come (2 Co 4.17); How we honor Jesus’ name (2 Thess 1.12); How we do not discriminate (Jas 2.1); How we live before unbelievers (1 Pet 2.12)

Excellence & Benevolence (Prov 22:29; 27:23-27; Rom 13:9-10; 1 Thess 4:9-12)

1. Move into a Neighborhood: “Before outsiders” – Col 4:5-6, 1 Thess 4:11-12, 1 Pet 2:11-17, 3:11-17; “Do whatever is good, slander \*no one\*, be peaceable and considerate, show true humility toward \*all men\*” (Titus 3:2)

What Do Your “Neighbors” Esteem? \* Care of Children \* Education \*Public Service \* Music \* The Arts \* Medical Care “Make the gospel attractive” (Titus 2:10) “How can you serve your neighbor?” Gal 6.10

But doesn’t everyone do neighboring, homemaking and hospitality, believers and unbelievers alike? What, if any, difference is there? What is their purpose? What is their answer to “Why?” [Remember, Christians do not say “our way is better,” rather our way of life is distinctive, given to us from a Holy God (the definition of “holy” is “distinctive”)

2. Hospitality: a Trait of The Church Personal Presence, Public Participation

Travel in the ancient world was difficult. Most everyone would need to walk which necessitated washing and deodorizing upon entry to a person's home. [Jesus' washing the disciples' feet in John 13.] First Testament teaching about love for strangers is the basis for *philoxenia* (Deut 10:18-19). Phoebe: Romans 16.16. *Local Church Leaders* 1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8. *Local Church People* Rom 12:13; 1 Pet 4:9. 1 Tim 2:1-4. Titus “do good” (8x)

Common Grace Matt 5:44-45; Luke 6:35-36; Acts 14:16-17 Porching / Endangered Species Chocolate / Jazz / Fathers / Ideas

*Keeping House: A Litany of Everyday Life*

Housekeeping is not a distraction, but a beginning, and an essential one at that—in the proper Christian work of, among other things, meeting the everyday needs of others, whether those others be our fellow household members, our near neighbors, or people more sociologically or geographically distant from ourselves. / I measured my days by whether, at the end of them, the members of my household had been dressed and fed and bathed and put to bed. If we had been, then that was a good day. I had done what mattered most. Everything else was gravy. / People need to eat, to sleep, to have clothes to wear; they need a place to read, a place to play, a place into which to welcome guests and from which to go forth into the world. These are the needs housework exists to meet.

“So that’s” of Titus 2:1-10 We live our faith before our local communities “so that the Word of God may not be reviled… an opponent may be put to shame, not having anything evil to say about us…we might make the doctrine of God our Savior attractive.” Our attraction is not accommodation for, collusion with, acquiescence to, or acceptance of cultural idols. Our attraction is how we live.

Questions for Everyday Life

1. Why do we separate work into categories?
2. How do we displace the extraordinary from the ordinary in our lives?
3. What should we say or do to elevate daily tasks to their rightful place in life?
4. Who in our homes should we thank for their consistent practice of the ordinary?
5. When do we honor the daily tasks of life?