

## Reflection Questions: Genesis 1:27-28; 2:8-9, 15-22

For the message, "Thank God It's Monday? The Glory of Culture Making" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on June 17, 2018

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These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).

### INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Genesis 1:27-28; 2:8-9, 15

A summary of the message: The original great commission given to humanity was the commission to create culture. Culture is what we make of this world. In other words, God created this world and charge humanity with making it even better so that humanity can flourish and God would be glorified.

Key Points: The original great commission included the charge...

- ...to multiply, be fruitful, and fill the earth (that is, to build society)
- ...rule over and subdue creation (to bring out the hidden potential of the earth)
- ...to work it and keep it (to cultivate and care for creation as stewards)

Key Quotes:

- Nathan Bierma, *Bringing Heaven Down to Earth*, "The Garden of Eden was an unfinished masterpiece. It was beautiful, and more importantly, as God said, it was 'good.' ... But part of the reason God made human beings was to make it even better.... What God was telling humans to do was to make culture. He created nature and then told us to add culture...."
- Eph. 2:8-10, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is to your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Bottom Line:

- We are commissioned by our Creator to contribute to the creation of culture.
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Let's get started...

- How are you challenged, convicted, encouraged, or surprised by this text?

### QUESTIONS

#### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- What makes it easy or hard to believe that you are commissioned by your Creator to contribute to the creation of culture? What kinds of thoughts and questions does this prompt for you?

- How would your work look differently if I were to really live out the message of this text, namely that you are commissioned by your Creator to contribute to the creation of culture?

**2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- What would it look like for us as a church community if we are to live out this text in our city? In other words, if this text really informed our work, what kind of workers / employees / employers would Mercy Hill be known to have?
- How do you think the community of faith could / should encourage one another in our various callings? What might that look like?

**3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.**

- What are some examples of the ways in which culture in our city / society has been shaped for the good? What are some examples of the way it has been shaped for the worse?
- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith?
- What kind of new vision for work is this text calling our city to experience?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- Father, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_.
- God, I am having trouble believing that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus, enable me to \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_.