

QUESTIONS FOR “CONTEXTUALIZING” WORK

Which questions will help me put my work into the context of the “bigger picture” that matters most?

The GOD factor:

How is God present in this activity? In this place?

What does God really think about this activity?

What joy might God receive through my involvement in this activity?

How does the Lordship of Christ and His authority over all things relate to this activity?

How does God’s ownership of what I am working with relate to this activity?

How does God’s First Commission of Gen. 1:26-28 (to rule over this material world) relate to this activity?

How is God glorified through this activity? How is God dishonored?

How is God speaking to me through this activity? What does God want me to learn from this activity?

How is God’s will being done through this activity as it is in Heaven?

How does God’s Word relate to this activity?

What factors might be causing me to not see God at work through this activity?

How is God’s grace and mercy part of this activity?

How can I “imitate God” well through this activity?

What qualifies this activity to be “the work of God?”

The CREATION factor:

How does my work fit into God’s reason for creating the world, and all it contains?

What unseen spiritual forces might be affecting my participation in this activity?

How has the Fall and the entrance of sin into the world affected this activity?

How does God’s reason for creating all things relate to this activity?

What is the temporal value of this activity? What is the eternal value of this activity?

What aspects of this activity might be carried over into the New Earth (Revelation 21)?

The HUMANITY factor:

How does this activity serve the “common good” of my community?

Am I using the gifts He has given me in this task? Does this job fit me well?

How can I encourage a fuller use of God’s gifts in others through this task?

Am I “carrying Christ well” in this task?

Am I “filled with the Spirit” while engaged in this task?

Where have I seen answered prayer related to this task? Where do I need to pray more?

How am I fulfilling God’s intention for my life through this activity?

How does this activity give me a “good name?”

How can this activity help me to not be envious of others?

How can this activity build character in me?

How am I demonstrating to others that I am created in the likeness and image of God through this activity?

How does this activity underpin the intrinsic value and inherent worth of all humans around me?

What physical, emotional or spiritual needs of others are being met through this activity?

How does this activity provide opportunities for me to live a truly God-honoring life?

How does this activity relate to my primary calling to be “conformed to the image of God’s Son?”

How does this activity provide opportunities for me to be “known and read” by those around me, especially those who may not know the Lord?

How can I be an “agent of grace” through this activity?

How does this activity provide opportunities for me to love the Lord with all my heart, mind and strength?

How does this activity provide opportunities for me to love my co-workers and customers as myself?

The MORAL ORDER factor:

How has the reality of sin in a fallen world affected this activity? What can I do about it?

How am I balancing this activity with rest?

When my work is judged by God, what parts will be burned up like “wood, hay and stubble” and what parts will pass through the fire like “refined gold?”

How does this activity respect the property rights of others?

Am I living up to my contracts in an honorable way through this activity?

Am I loving this work too much? Am I loving it more than God? Has it become an “idol?”

Is the Holy Spirit living through me, regardless of the circumstances, through this work?

Am I using profits gained from this activity in an honorable way? Am I being generous?

Have I counted the cost before I build?

How is God’s moral order being upheld through this activity?

Is justice being done in and through this activity?

How can this activity be helpful in reducing poverty in the world?

What moral injunctions from the Word of God relate specifically to this activity?

The PURPOSE factor:

How can God’s will be done on the earth today, as it is in heaven, through this activity?

How does this activity provide an opportunity for me to “observe all that Christ commanded,” as given in the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20?

What purpose does this activity really have, in God’s sight?

How does this activity serve to reconcile all things to Christ (Col. 1)?

What does the Kingdom of God “look like” when it “comes” to this activity?

How does this activity provide opportunities for me to be “salt” and “light” in the world?

Why is this activity truly worthwhile?

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