



HOW DOES YOUR

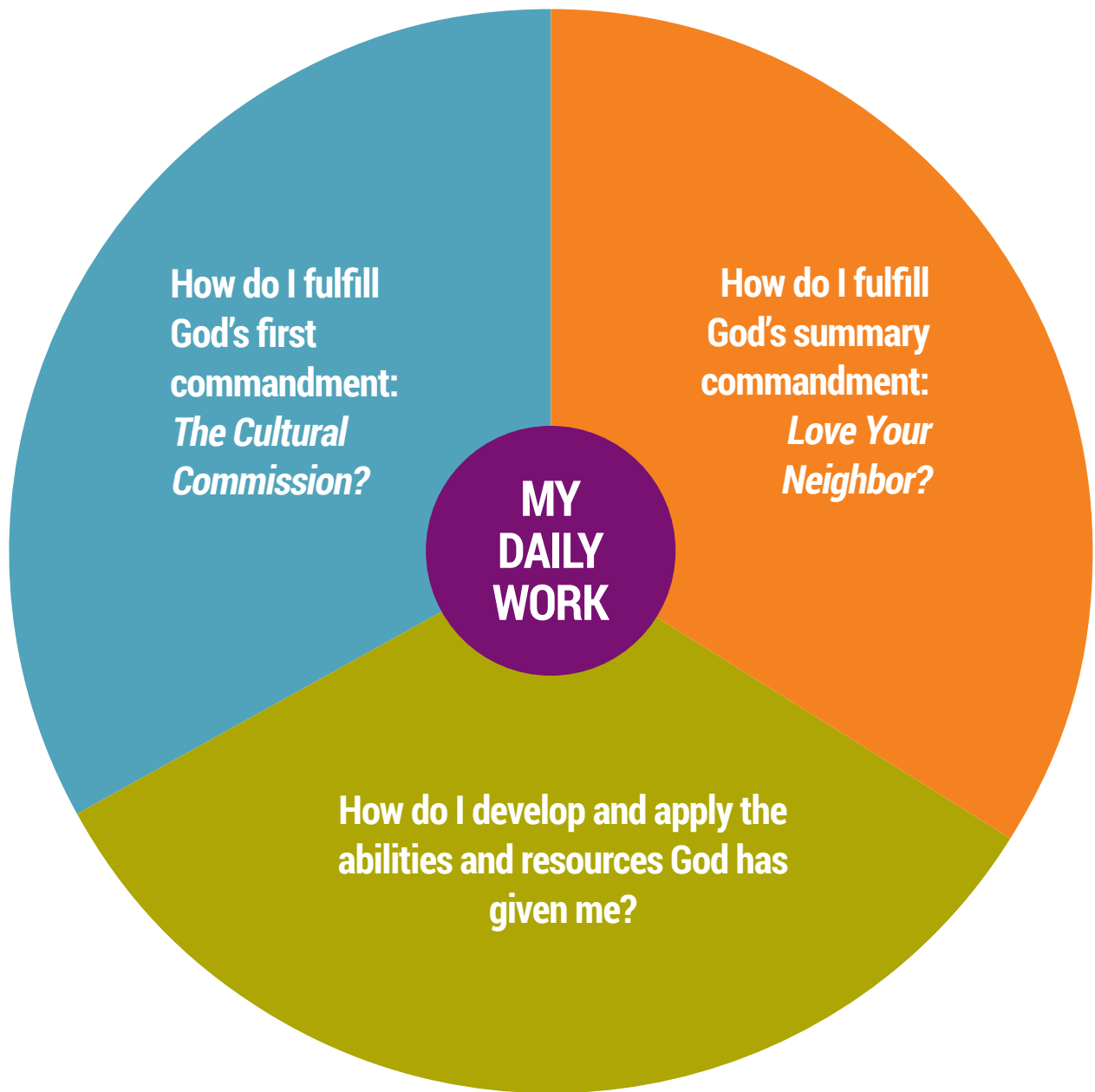
DAILY WORK

ADVANCE GOD'S KINGDOM?

A Personal Assessment Tool
for reconnecting your life and
work to the advancement of
God's kingdom

Coram Deo: A ministry of





This tool is meant to complement the Monday Church course at CoramDeo.com.

WHY THIS TOOL? WHY THESE QUESTIONS?

Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

We are to be about God's mission on this earth. God's mission is his kingdom come, his will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

WHAT IS GOD'S KINGDOM?

In its simplest terms, the kingdom of God is where God reigns as king. It is where the will of God is done.



We are to connect all of our lives to God's kingdom purposes. This includes all of our "work" life. Our work includes not only the 100,000 hours we apply to our vocation but also the work we do washing the dishes, mowing the lawn, caring for children, helping the neighbor, going to school, and even working out at the gym.

How do we connect all of our work to God's kingdom purposes?

The application exercise will enable you to critically reflect on how your specific work connects to God's purpose to bless, heal, and restore this broken world.

You will reflect on (1) how your work connects to the first commandment in Genesis 1 – the Cultural Commission, (2) how, through your work, you can fulfill the summary commandment to love your neighbor, and (3) how developing and applying your abilities can further God's kingdom.



WHAT IS MY WORK?

1.1 Which of your multiple work roles will you assess with this tool? Choose just one.

My work that earns me a paycheck

My work in the home

My work in the church or community

1.2 What do you do in this work? What services or products do you provide?

For example:

I am an accountant for an international accounting firm focusing on mergers and acquisitions.

- or -

I sweep the floor and do laundry every week.

- or -

I serve on the local school board. We create policies and provide final oversight for the operation of the schools in our community.

HOW DOES MY WORK FULFILL GOD'S FIRST COMMANDMENT – THE CULTURAL COMMISSION?

God's first commandment in Genesis 1 is to rule over the earth and life, to fill the earth and subdue it, to work at and tend the garden. This is often referred to as the Cultural Commission (or Cultural Mandate).

In short, we are to take all God has given us, create with it, and make the world and all of life better.

Nancy Pearcey, in her book *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity*, further explains why this commandment has been called the Cultural Mandate:

The first phrase, 'be fruitful and multiply,' means to develop the social world: build families, churches, schools, cities, governments, laws. The second phrase, 'subdue the earth,' means to harness the natural world: plant crops, build bridges, design computers, and compose music. This passage is sometimes called the Cultural Mandate because it tells us that our original purpose was to create cultures, build civilizations – nothing less.

2.1 Below are some words that fit with God's First Commandment. Identify the words that apply to your place of work, then identify those that apply to your specific role. You may write them in the space below. And feel free to add new words!

Create, discover, invent, develop, write, compose, design, plant, add to, build, grow, produce, increase

Restore, restore, redeem, fix, solve, clean, organize, replace, correct

Beautify, improve, systematize, order, straighten, refine, polish, cultivate, tend, nurture, enhance, streamline, strengthen

Protect, save, guard, protect, prevent, maintain, care for, overcome, subdue, govern, rule over

Now, in your own words, list some of the ways you fulfill God's First Commandment through your work. What all do you create, restore, improve or protect through the work you do? How, in your specific work, do you make the world and all of life better?

2.2 Sin and Satan have distorted and confused God's purposes, including this first commandment (the Cultural Commission). If the Cultural Commission is to create good for this world, what in your workplace is not fulfilling the Cultural Commission?

2.3 The Cultural Commission is given to every person. No one is exempt. In your work, how can you help your co-workers and customers to better fulfill this command?

HOW DOES MY WORK FULFILL GOD'S COMMANDMENT TO LOVE MY NEIGHBOR?

The Great Commandment is to love God with all our being, and the second is to love our neighbor. Galatians 5:14 tells us that all of God's commands can be summarized by this: Love your neighbor. The principal way we demonstrate our love for God is by loving our neighbor.

What does it mean to love your neighbor? Is it a feeling? Is it a special act of kindness? In its simplest terms, to love your neighbor is to seek the highest good and do the highest good for the other person. To love others through your work is to do and speak what is best for the other person. When we do so, all flourish. This is God's design.

What does loving your neighbor in the workplace look like? It could be providing the best-quality product or service, keeping your word, being diligent, treating co-workers and customers with dignity and respect as fellow image bearers of God, etc.

3.1 Who are your neighbors in your workplace? Name them.

Co-workers:

Boss/es:

Vendors:

Clients/Customers:

Owners/Stockholders:

3.2 What are ways you can seek and do the highest good for each of these neighbors?

Co-workers:

Boss/es:

Vendors:

Clients/Customers:

Owners/Stockholders:

Other people in my workplace:

3.3 Sin and Satan have distorted and confused all of God's purposes – including this command to love your neighbor. How are you not loving your neighbors in your workplace? How is your company or business falling short in this area?

HOW DO I DEVELOP AND APPLY ALL OF THE ABILITIES AND RESOURCES GOD HAS GIVEN TO ME IN THIS WORK?

God gave each of us a unique role in history. He created each one to contribute – to bless the world and others. God gave to every person abilities and resources to develop and use for the flourishing of mankind and the world. As image bearers, all of us are responsible to our Creator to develop our lives and all our resources, especially our hearts and minds. No one is exempt. We are to encourage and provide opportunity to every person to develop his/her unique potential so as to contribute back to the world.

4.1 How can you further develop the ability and potential God gave you? For the sake of God's will for the world, what can you improve about yourself? What more can you learn? What skill can you perfect?

4.2 How can you better support your co-workers, clients and customers to develop the abilities and resources God has given them to bless the world and others?

4.3 What's hindering you from further developing the ability God gave you? What's hindering you from helping others develop the ability God has given them?

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