

YOU ARE A PIECE OF WORK

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Ephesians 2:10

Being called a piece of work may not be a compliment for some of us. If you work everybody's nerves and make excessive demands you may be negatively labeled a piece of work. Not being easy to please or being downright hard work with can make you a piece of work. However, in the text, we are called God's workmanship. **Romans 1:20, Ephesians 2:9** Believers are God's workmanship because we have been created by God. We are His work of art, His masterpiece. **Psalm 19:1, Psalm 33:6** The solar system, moon, and the stars are all a part of God's work. The scriptures give evidence that man and woman are the better of God's creation. He saved the best for last. **Psalm 139** All of us go through periods where we feel as if there is something wrong with us. You need to know that you were custom made. Nobody is like you. You are fearfully and wonderfully made **Psalm 139:14**. We have the personality in line for what God has called us to do. God gives us everything we need.

Genesis 1:27 We were created in God's image and likeness. We represent God. When people see us, they ought to see what God looks like in all of His glory. We not only have a body we have a living soul. We pass by ourselves without wondering; meaning we see nothing special and powerful in ourselves. We are always questioning and second-guessing ourselves. **Colossians 1:15-17** When everything in your life is going crazy, it is God that helps put your pieces back together again so that you are able to move on. You will survive your troubles because God is holding it together through Christ.

We were created as the crown of God's creation. Though we were marked by sin and had to be re-created, the second time is even greater than the first because it cost God everything. We are changed and being changed so that we can become like Christ. In Christ, you are of untold worth. You mean more than you can ever imagine. However, you are not a finished work. You are still in process. He is making us into a greater version of ourselves. It is called, sanctification. It is tearing us apart and putting us back together again. Our conversion is not the end but the beginning. He is chipping away at us like stone. God takes our good times and bad times to smooth us out. His continued chipping and chiseling is sometimes painful to us. Just when you think you have it all together, God puts on the pressure. What do you do? You stand still. How are you supposed to stand still when there is a fiery situation going on in your life, yanking you in every direction? God said, "Be still and know that I am God." In quietness and in trust is where you will find your strength. God is refining us. When we see Jesus, we will be just like Him.

Titus 2:14 We have been saved to serve. God saved us to work. We are not saved by works but by the grace of God. Works are the fruit of salvation. Night is evidence of darkness; and it is hard to

work in darkness. There is definitely darkness in our world but we have to get to work. There are children being raised without fathers. The percentage of individuals and families without homes is increasing. One out of every four girls has a sexually transmitted disease. Forty seven percent of high school students have had sexual intercourse; some before the age of 13. We are scared to tell our children to live holy. You are scared to live holy before them so that they have a good example. Innocent children are being killed or beaten. Students pass through metal detectors when entering their schools. Something is wrong with this picture. God called us to do good works.

Good works is being involved in your children's lives. Good works, is talking to your children about sex. Do you not know how to talk about sex? You figured out how to get it. You need to teach them that they need to wait until they are married to the person God has for them. Good works is volunteering. We are the first generation to leave our children with nothing worthwhile. We have passed on licentiousness, perverseness, and violent ways. We want everybody to look like Beyonce by the age of two. Children and even grandmothers are shaking hips and gyrating while we applaud. Brothers tell young men to get as much as they can without being attached. They tell them to hit it, quit it, and move on. That's how dogs do it, not believers. Real men make commitments. God called us to rescue our dying communities. God called us to pour into our youth. It takes a village to raise one child. A lot of us are looking for meaning in meaningless ways. We are looking for love in all the wrong places. Know that only God can validate you. Know that you are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Peace

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