



# Biblical Foundations

## Shaped by God

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*Then the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you.*

— Exodus 31:1–6 (NIV)



“God broke the mold when he made you.” This expression is often used to describe someone as being unique, special, one of a kind. God created each of us as unique individuals. This is true of everyone, even identical twins. Although they may look alike on the outside, they can be very different people.

God created all of us with our own strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes, passions, and personalities. We are also shaped by God through our upbringing, education, and experiences.

Throughout life, we make decisions and take action to pursue our passions and put our unique skills and abilities to use. It’s our responsibility to learn, grow, work hard, apply ourselves, research, make wise decisions, and find ways to improve ourselves. We seek to understand who we are and how our skills, abilities, and personalities can be used well in our churches,



society, and the workplace. In short, we want to understand our “shape” so that we can determine how we fit in.

But we’re not alone in this quest. And we are not who we are because of our own merits. God gives us our skills. Through divine providence, he helps position us in the church, society, and the workplace. We are who we are because we do our part, and also because God does his part. And over time, the life story God has written for us unfolds.

God shapes us, and God positions us according to our shape. He gives us certain desires, and then he uses us in ways that richly satisfy those desires. As a result, we find meaning, purpose, and fulfillment in life. As God’s purposes are carried out, the lives of many are impacted. This includes not only our own lives but also those of our families and loved ones, our church families, ministries and those they serve, society at large, and potentially the world. If we are faithful to the God who created us, shaped us, and led us through life, Jesus Christ receives glory.

God selected highly skilled craftsmen to build the tabernacle and its furnishings. Learning and developing those skills required tremendous effort on the part of the workers. At the same time, God revealed that it was he who had “given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything [he had] commanded [Moses].”

Because the tabernacle represented the dwelling place of God, and the quality of the workmanship was a direct reflection of God himself, God insisted upon a high degree of excellence in the work. God sets the bar high because the work we do reflects on him.

Like the construction and artistry of the skilled tabernacle workers, our work is a reflection of the God who made us, shaped us, and indwells us. Therefore, when we pursue excellence, we can honor God in our work and in our lives.

We are who we are because of the way God has gifted us. Let us use those gifts as an offering of worship to God.