

"Get your own dirt."

The following joke is one of many funny stories that have circulated around the internet the last few years:

God is sitting in Heaven when a scientist says to Him, "Lord, we don't need you anymore. Science has finally figured out a way to create life out of nothing. In other words, we can now do what you did in the beginning."

"Oh, is that so? Tell me..." replies God.

"Well," says the scientist, "we can take dirt and form it into the likeness of You and breathe life into it, thus creating man."

"Well, that's interesting. Show me."

So the scientist bends down to the earth and starts to mold the soil.

"Oh no, no, no..." interrupts God, "Get your own dirt."

The scientist in this story makes the same mistake that every one of us make. We often think we have done things on our own. We are proud of our independence and self-reliance.

The truth is that all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God. If we earn money for our work, it is not our money. God gave us the time and ability to work. God gave us a healthy body and a mind to think and reason.

One of the things I find most ironic about this joke is that the scientist is in conversation with God. Ultimately, that prayer conversation is his salvation from his misconceptions. Only in conversation with God and God's Word can we discover our false idols. We are not God. Only God is God.

As we plant in our flower beds and vegetable gardens this spring, and as we weed them, I encourage you to pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the soil, and that you didn't have to "Get your own dirt!" Why not make the entire gardening experience into a prayer? Take a cue from the scientist and have a conversation with God.

Also, while you are planting, would you plant another row to give to the Verona Community Food Pantry? They are in need of fresh produce, and food of any type.

We, as a congregation, will also start volunteering one Tuesday night a month at the food pantry, so please see me or Kitty Cook to learn more about this exciting service opportunity.

If you've already signed up, you can go and volunteer any day between now and June so that they can train you.

Peace,  
Pastor Chris

Thank You, God, that you provide even the dirt for our benefit.  
Amen.