

Enjoying the Holy in Every God-Given Calling

Thursday, October 27, 2016

Sectional A33 (1:30 PM) or B33 (2:45 PM)

Room 206

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**Introduction: The Twin Ditches This Workshop Seeks to Help Us Avoid:
 Neither Living at School...Nor Living for the Weekend**

Objectives of this sectional:

Under God's blessing, those who attend this sectional will have...

- Found greater delight in the gracious reality of being God's masks in **all** their God-given callings so that they serve with a good conscience in each of their callings.
- Gained a more conscious grasp of all their unique God-given callings and caught sight a bit more of the often hidden holiness in each one of those unique callings.

Part 1: The Glory of Being the Masks of God in Every God-Given Calling

Take 1 minute to write out how you would define the image of God – be sure to include in your definition what you believe to be the purpose(s) for which God gave that gift to Adam and Eve.

The essence of the image of God

The initial gift of the image: Genesis 2:18-25

The image of God means that human beings were created so that in...

The dual purpose of God's image...first purpose (the vertical dimension of the image)

The challenge where the image of God is missing: Hebrews 10:31 & 12:29

The re-gifting of the image in Christ: Ephesians 5:25-27

This purpose of the image

...as glimpsed in the perfection of Eden: Genesis 3:8-9

...as glimpsed in the shadows of the Old Covenant: Exodus 24:8-11

...as glimpsed in the fuller realities of the New Covenant: Luke 22:19-20

...as enjoyed completely and forever in the final Eden: Revelation 22:1-5

The first purpose of the image of God is that we might enjoy...

Note: our most important calling is always our calling to be a child and heir of God through faith in Jesus. Apart from that, as Solomon said, everything is meaningless!

The dual purpose of God's image...second purpose (the horizontal dimension of the image)

This purpose of the image

...as glimpsed in the perfection of Eden: Genesis 1:26-28

...as glimpsed in the shadows of the Old Covenant: Exodus 29:38-41

...as glimpsed in the fuller realities of the New Covenant: Romans 12:1-2

...as enjoyed completely and forever in the final Eden: Isaiah 65:17-25

The second purpose of the image of God is that we have the delight of...

Question for small group discussion:

Form a group of four or five to discuss the question below. Appoint a reporter who can share with our whole group the answers you came up with.

In the midst of the ever-shifting dynamic of our lives – in fact of each new day - it will never be easy to know precisely how to divide up our finite energy and time between the many different God-given callings we have. (Sorry...refunds will be handed out at the door as you leave this workshop!) Yet, in what ways does it help us approach such questions with less of a conscience burden as we recall the truth that we are God's masks in **every** calling he has given us?

Part 2: **Seizing the Holy in Each of Your Unique Callings**

Task #1: Evaluating One Called Worker’s (Imperfect) Way to Seize the Holy in His Callings

Spend five minutes reading through the document that was just distributed. The presenter uses this to set annual goals for growth in his God-given callings and to plan his weekly schedule. This document also has a companion document that is blank except for the listing of the callings. That becomes a template for his weekly “to do” list with tasks listed under the matching calling.

Note well: the presenter makes no claim to having mastered this! He seeks to remember (not always so successfully!) that his confidence before God is not the perfection of living this out but that Jesus has already been all these things perfectly in his place...and died for his failures!

As you read:

- Underline anything that you especially might want to remember that could be useful as you see yourself as God’s mask in all your unique God-given callings; and
- Circle anything that sparks a question for clarification or “push back.”

Once everyone is finished reading, we will spend a few minutes discussing this together.

Task #2: Where am I a glimpse of Jesus...let me count the ways!

Using the chart on the next page, spend five minutes developing a unique list of the God-given callings that God has privilege you to have as part of your life. There is no “ideal” number to have on your list. The key is simply to seek to capture the many different unique venues and settings – often different groups of people - in which God privileges you to be a glimpse of Jesus to those he puts around you. Note any questions you might have for group discussion.

Task #3: Identifying Our Where Our Callings Bring Us Joys...and Challenges

On the chart take two minutes to:

- mark in the column provided the two or three God-given callings that are currently giving you the greatest joy;
- mark in the column provided the two or three God-given callings that are currently causing you the greatest challenge; and
- ponder whether there is anything about how you view a particular calling that helps it be a “joy” or that allows it to be marked as a “challenge.” To put that another way, what from our presentation underlines the joy you find or could help answer the challenge?

Without compelling anyone to divulge the particular callings they marked in each category, or why they did so, we will finish this task by discussing any insights that might help us find God’s grace to seize the holy in the callings that are more challenging to us.

Closing: I no longer live, but Christ lives in me! (Galatians 2:20)

