

URBANA 2015

Seminar Outline: Everyone's Work is "Mission"

God made us in his image to work in his kingdom - it was meant to be fun, meaningful, and fruitful. But we all know how broken it is! Explore the opportunities for mission in any job you do.

I. MISSIONS vs. MISSION

All God's people are called to a life of "missional" work - that is, work that cares for God's creation and creates a culture that enables people to thrive. Some are called into the specific vocation of "missions" - generally referred to as evangelism and discipleship in a global or cross-cultural setting.

- Both are self-sacrificing
- Although different in the defined purpose of the work, neither is more inherently God-glorifying than the other
- Talking explicitly about the gospel is context-sensitive in both

II. MADE TO WORK - reappropriating 'Vocation'

A job is a vocation only if someone else calls you to it and you do it for them rather than for yourself. Almost ANY work can be a calling if it is reimagined as a mission of service to something beyond merely our own interests.

- The Creation Mandate
- Our own work and culture-making
- A model for faith-full work

III. GOD'S PLAN vs. REALITY

Whether working inside Christendom (the church or faith-based organization) or outside where most people deny God's sovereignty, our work has been profoundly disordered since the Fall.

- The Fall - work became hard, fruitless, and selfish
- The World is a Mess
- I'm a Mess

IV. THE GOSPEL HOPE

The Biblical worldview uniquely understands the nature, problem, and salvation of humankind - our relationship with God. We can be brought back into that broken relationship through his salvation and grace.

- A new story for work: the plan, the problem, and the solution
- A new compass for work
- A new power for work

V. PRESSING NEEDS IN THE WORLD OF WORK TODAY

- Man vs. machine: the impact of technology
- Man vs. man: the impact of power and injustice
- Individualism vs. Culture: the impact of our values
- Hope in the gospel vs. hope in progress (humanity)
- Technique vs. wisdom

RESOURCES:

EVERY GOOD ENDEAVOR, Tim Keller with Katherine Leary Alsdorf

CULTURE MAKING, Andy Crouch

CALLING, Os Guinness

CREATION REGAINED, Al Wolters

www.theologyofwork.org - Biblical Commentary on faith and work

www.faithandwork.com - website of Redeemer's Center for Faith & Work