

Intro:

How did you play as a kid, say from K-3rd grade? Discuss with neighbor.

What do you think you felt during those moments?

Fun, excitement.

We're in a series called "passion," and we're touching on some of the core things that drive us from deep within as people, regardless of our spiritual background or beliefs. Last week Alan brought us through a discussion about how we all have a sense of the spiritual, and that that drive is ultimately satisfied in knowing God as He's revealed himself to us in Jesus.

This week, we touch on the drive we have toward making a difference in our world, wanting to produce something meaningful- the drive we have to be creative. Let's look at Genesis 1:26-31.

Read Text.

Genesis 1-2 is the grand introduction to the life as the Bible sees it. It introduces a big, magnificent, good God who is behind all that exists in the universe and beyond. While questions abound as to the details of how this fits in with science and so on- all very important, and I want to refer you to some online resources for questions (www.biologos.org, www.answersingenesis.org).

But what we want to focus on is not the origins issue, but the purpose issue of Genesis 1-2, in particular the purpose of humanity and the innate drive we have to create. I want to touch on some basic truths of the passage, and then tackle two big questions as to how this actually works out in real life. It's going to start from the abstract and move to the concrete. Bear with me if you will.

Basic Truths:

We are created in God's likeness- we bear his characteristics.

Our purpose is threefold: Reflect, Reign, Reproduce.

Reflect: represent his character of holiness, justice, love, and more.

Reign: manage the created order with his character.

Reproduce: Not just babies. As we think about the bigger picture of God's work culminating in Jesus- something that affects the first two R's as well, I think it can be said that this also includes helping other people come into a relationship with God through Jesus. The reason for God to want the planet filled in the first place is to reflect God's glory. The story of the Bible is that humanity was overtaken by evil and sin, and so could not do that. God sent Jesus to make it possible to reflect glory through a life given to Jesus, and that process of coming to Jesus and giving your life is described in reproductive terms- being "born again." So we're talking about helping others come to Jesus.

Creativity is part of being in His image. Creativity thus should be a part of this threefold purpose.

How are we to be creative? What do we mean by creativity?

Let's think about how God is creator, and see if we can glean some insights into what we mean.

a. God creates something from nothing, or something from something (1:3, 2:7)

Us:

Something from nothing: new innovations, abstract ideas, blank canvas.

Something from something: improvements, fine-tuning, collages.

b. God creates both the hidden order and the visible flare. (Natural laws, peacock)

Us: creativity is not just the artistic. It can be the unseen- creativity in relationships, creativity organizing and bringing order.

c. God creates with great joy and happiness. (1:31- it is good, Ps. 104:31)

Perhaps one way to discover where you are creative is to ask yourself what gives you a sense of joy and accomplishment when you're done.

How are we to be creative in our purposes of reflect, reign, reproduce?

Foundation: embrace Jesus to restore our creative capacity.

Work:

Methods- how you accomplish your work- systems, protocols, ethics.

Management- how you care for people at work.

Mission- how your work changes the world.

Examples: Lawyers in Hong Kong, Lori at Qualcomm.

Church and Community Mission:

Music and Art

Missional Theology

Community Initiative

Example: YMCA was first started in the 1800s to give young men direction and health, based in Jesus, in the midst of urbanization. It has profoundly influenced the world.

Questions, Comments

Challenge

Discover and pursue the creativity God has called you to.