



August 27th, 2016

Work In A Fallen World

We see in Genesis 3 that as a result of Adam & Eve's sin, relationship with God is broken and a curse is enacted by God. This curse affects both men and women in the areas that they were designed to be most like God by bringing "frustration to fruitfulness". This means that although our work will produce results and fruit, it will be a constant source of frustration for us. We also have to recognize the "futility of impermanence"...the knowledge that although we are designed to work, very little of what we accomplish will matter in eternity. Genesis 3 hints at what Romans 8 explains more fully: that God's curse is in fact his mercy at work and through his work there is hope in a future day of permanence and renewal.

1. Bill's example of the first time he was introduced to the real nature of work was a story of "taking out" a thorn bush in gym shorts and tennis shoes. What was the first time you were introduced to the frustrating nature of trying to be fruitful?
2. Work is not simply the job you have but it's things like your marriage, parenting, spiritual development, etc. What are the areas you are currently doing the most work? How have you experienced "fruitfulness overlaid with frustration" in these areas?
3. There is a temptation to be discouraged by the "futility of impermanence." Do you find yourself more likely to be discouraged by this idea or to live like it's not true? Why?
4. God's curse on humanity is actually his mercy in that it can cause us to come to the end of ourselves and become aware of our need for God. How do you react in a situation where you become aware of your shortcomings? What keeps people from turning to God when they find frustration in their fruitfulness?
5. Knowing that the world is cursed, do you find yourself "freaking out" when bad things happen? How does freaking out or not freaking out affect our ability to minister to others?
6. What we are doing matters because God is at work. How should this fact impact: 1) What you choose to work on? 2) your attitude toward that work?