

Callings for Life

Chapter 4: God Loves Dirt

Opening Question

What is something you tried once and won't try again?

Recapping

- Chapter 1 - Callings are Plural

But how can I discern between them all?

- Chapter 2 - God is at work now. Don't neglect your present callings!
- Chapter 3 - God works through big and small things. Don't overlook the callings that seem "unimportant"!
- Chapter 4 - God is at work *in* the world *for the sake of* the world. Don't try to escape it for "spiritual" things!

This is no small point!

Genesis 2:7 (p. 95)

- Creation: God gets down into creation and makes it GOOD
- Sin: Sin is real and powerful, and it infects all created things. But this doesn't mean that the creation itself is now bad.
- Humanity: We are truly and completely sinners. We are lost from God. And yet we are still made in His image!

This is no small point!

Hebrews 4:14-16 (p. 101), Philippians 2:5-11 (p. 102)

- Redemption: Jesus entered into creation. He did it perfectly on our behalf. And he showed us humility like we would never have expected from an Almighty God.

1 John 1:1-4 (p. 104)

- Christian Witness: We bear witness to something that happened in the world. And it is still happening in the world. And it is for the redemption of the world.

This is no small point!

John 16:33 (p. 115), Romans 8:38-39 (p. 117)

- Opposition to the Gospel: The world may attack God's Word and His messengers (us). But, still the world has been redeemed. It's God's world. He has overcome it in Jesus. We need not fear it.

A common error throughout time

- Asceticism
 - Christian movements that see holiness as withdrawal from the created world.
 - Lots of fasting, silence, chastity, etc.
- Gnosticism
 - Non-Christian (heretical) movement that sought a special knowledge that would free them from this physical world.

A common error throughout time

- Docetism
 - The false teaching that Jesus only “seemed” human but was actually only a deity
- Manichaeism
 - A non-Christian (heretical) philosophy that assumed there is a light, good god and a dark, evil god who are at war in our world. The answer for humans is to withdraw from this world and seek the light.

We often struggle to separate sin from the good creation. And, instead of doing the difficult work of figuring it out, we end up either **WITHDRAWING** from or **ATTACKING** God's good creation.

Such as...

- Emotions
 - How are emotions affected by sin?
 - How are they a part of God's good creation?
 - How do you see yourself or others *withdrawing* or *attacking* the gift of emotions?
 - How might God be calling His people to use emotions well?

Such as...

- Intellect
 - How is intellect affected by sin?
 - How is intellect a part of God's good creation?
 - How do you see yourself or others *withdrawing* or *attacking* the gift of intellect?
 - How might God be calling His people to use intellect well?

Such as...

- Government
 - How is government affected by sin?
 - How is it government part of God's good creation?
 - How do you see yourself or others *withdrawing* or *attacking* the gift of government?
 - How might God be calling His people to use government well?

Such as...

- What else comes to mind?
 - How is _____ affected by sin?
 - How is it _____ part of God's good creation?
 - How do you see yourself or others *withdrawing* or *attacking* the gift of _____?
 - How might God be calling His people to use _____ well?