

"Pace is a Self-Understanding Problem"

"The Problem of Pace" (Pt. 2 ½)

June 12, 2022

Intro ...

Rom 12:3 "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."

1 Corinthians 7:17 Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him.

1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (NIV)

Genesis 1:27-28, 31 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ... ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

PONDER: Life is Filled with Moments, Experiences, Events--that make us ask the question: ***"What's Going On Here?"***

...Creation is Filled with "Divine Assignment"!

...From Genesis to Romans we are called to Be Mindful of God's Assignment when we Think About Ourselves!

...It is Not Unusual for Fallen Man to be Unsettled or Unhappy or Arguing with the Creator about His Assignments!

Rom 9:19-21 You will say to me then,
 “Why does he still find fault? For
 who can resist his will?” ²⁰ But who
 are you, O man, to answer back to
 God? Will what is molded say to its
 molder, “Why have you made me
 like this?” ²¹ Has the potter no
 right over the clay...

Genesis 1:27-28, 31

God Created Man/Creation in a Particular Way!

... **“in His image”**—ie we’re supposed to
 “look like” something ...

... **“male & female”**—this is an
 “Assignment” by the Creator
 ...

... **“be fruitful and multiply and fill
 the earth”** ...the creator
 created families and children
 that come forth out of his
 assigned purpose

... **“subdue the earth and have
 dominion over it”** ...they are
 given an assignment! A
 Purpose!

... **“Everything that God made was
 VERY GOOD”** ...THIS is the
 Correct Starting place ...the
 ONLY One Qualified to
 evaluate the appropriateness
 or value of something is God
 Himself!

...**What’s This Got to do with “PACE”?**

...Well, God has also “assigned” LIMITATIONS to
 man. ...General limitations to the whole species ...&...
 Specific Limitations to us as Individuals

Divine, Designed Limitations

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 everyone among you not to think of himself
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1 **Corinthians 7:17** Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him.

1 **Peter 4:10** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (NIV)

- ***Designed & Assigned by God*** ...Our Humanity has a divine origin that informs our existence, our identity, our potential! ...We live in a creation where a Sovereign God "ASSIGNS" things to us
 - Designed with Intentional Limitations

Finitude is an unavoidable aspect of our creaturely existence. We run into it constantly and in different ways. If we are paying attention, we can see it. It doesn't take a car accident or an unexpected hospital visit for us to discover our limits and dependency. But are we listening? ...Far too often our lives testify to the fact that we believe we really can and should do everything. **Kelly M. Kopic**, *You're Only Human* (p. 6)

Sometimes lurking under our desires to expand our abilities is the unspoken temptation: "If only I were the infinite Creator, not a finite creature . . ." Indeed, this impulse to reject our creaturely limits is as old as sin itself. Genesis shows us that God made all that is not God, and everything he made was "good" (Gen. 1). But we quickly meet a serpent ...the serpent introduces distrust into the divine-human relationship. With these indirect tactics the serpent encourages his hearers to imagine they can and should know more. They should be more. He implies that divinely given limits are a fault to be overcome rather than a beneficial gift to be honored. ...The man and woman disdained their creaturely limits as faults instead of gifts, barriers that kept them from obtaining divine qualities. **Kelly M. Kopic**, *You're Only Human* (p. 12-13)

- Designed to NEED!
 - ***We are Material & Immaterial Beings (Body + Soul/Spirit)***
Each of these have unique needs:
 - We have PHYSICAL limits and needs
 - We have EMOTIONAL & MENTAL limits and needs
 - We have RELATIONAL needs AND relational limits
 - ***We Need the Breath of Life!*** ...we need God! We need a living vibrant exchange with Him!

Pace is a Self-Understanding Problem

I think we have a massive problem, but it is not a time-management issue. It is a theological and pastoral problem. **Kelly M. Kapic**, *You're Only Human* (p. 10). Baker Publishing Group

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...An over-paced life is a theologically uninformed life—the result of thinking more highly of ourselves! ...it ignores that a Sovereign God has determined and ordained and assigned our existence—Both as Human Beings ...AND... as the Particular Human Beings that we are!

(1) *We're NOT infinite God, we're finite creatures ...*

The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence. To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything, is to succumb to violence. The frenzy of our activism neutralizes our work for peace. It destroys our own inner capacity for peace. **Thomas Merton** – 1965 (quoted in "You're Only Human" (p. 6))

(2) ***We're NOT someone else, we're fearfully and wonderfully made as individuals by God ...with our own set of God assigned strengths, weaknesses, boundaries, and limitations!***

? - Why Did You Make Me This Way? ...

"Recognizing and rejoicing in our particular kind of finitude is a massive challenge, especially in the affluent, driven West. This shows up not just in our unrealistic expectations about how much we can accomplish in a day but also in our failure to value rest and slow-growing relationships. This problem takes many forms, from inappropriate expectations placed on our children to dehumanizing practices in the workforce. Christians often burn out from overcommitment to church activities or ministries; or they go to the opposite extreme, never volunteering for anything because they fear the unending demands that will come once they have committed. Too often the options are either try to do everything or simply to do nothing." ... "So how can we proceed? ...take time to carefully think about our creatureliness. This will reveal limits, dependence, love, reliance on the grace of God, and worship. ...examine the joy of being a creature and the freedom of resting on the promises of the Creator. ...question harmful and unrealistic ideals and begin to appreciate the messiness of our complex lives." **Kelly M. Kapic**, *You're Only Human* (p. 14). Baker Publishing Group