

Faith & Work

Class Two—Imaging God as Creator

Intro Discussion

What happens when our work is separated from our worship?

"What has been seen thus far merely confirms what is already well known about the place and value of work for Evangelicalism—that work has lost any spiritual and eternal significance and that it is important only insofar as it fosters certain qualities of the personality (Sociologist James Hunter on his conclusions upon conducting a survey of Christian college students)

Story of Re-integration: Jonathan Lim

Exercise -Reading and Study of Genesis 1 and 2

- How does God work?
- What adjectives describe how he works as Creator?
- What do you notice about God's acts of creation?

Genesis 1 and 2 - Work and Worship Integrated

The Hebrew word rendered "tend" or "work" is *abad*, which has a fairly wide range of meanings centered around the idea of work... As human beings *worked [abad]* the land, they were simultaneously *servicing [ebed]* their Lord and *worshipping [abad]* their Creator. Man, in his original state of innocence, performed all activities to the glory of God. - David Hegeman, *Plowing in Hope*

Discuss - What does it mean for us to create?

- "Only man has ability to move beyond the uniform rhythms of nature and transform the earth according to his own imaginative devices" - David Hegeman, *Plowing in Hope*
- A Christian should learn "to serve God in his work, and the work itself must be accepted and respected as the medium of divine creation... [Christians] have "forgotten that the secular vocation is sacred. Forgotten that a building must be good architecture before it can be a good church; that a painting must be well painted before it can be a good sacred picture; that work must be good work before it can call itself God's work... The only Christian work is good work well done... The worker's first duty is to serve the work". (Dorothy Sayers)