



7-30-17 Sermon Discussion Guide “Vocation”



Context

Throughout this summer we are talking about words and ideas that we often hear in church but rarely define. This summer provides a chance to hit “pause” and reflect upon these ideas, their importance, and their impact upon life. This series began by asking the question, “What is theology?” Throughout this summer we’ve looked at who God is, who we are in relation to God, and how God saves us. We are now in a time where we examine what the Christian response to God looks like. Last week we spoke in general terms, examining sanctification. This week we look at vocation. What does God call a Christian to do with their life?

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

How do you know if you are doing God’s will? Is this something we strive for every day, or more generally throughout our whole lives? Is God’s will specific for each of us, or just something general? When we talk of Christian vocation, we discuss the daily life and tasks of a believer. We examine what God calls Christians to do with their lives.

Discussing the Text – Ephesians 2:10, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)

1. What do you think Paul means in Ephesians 2:10 when he says that we are God’s handiwork?
2. Which good works do you think God has prepared in advance for us to do? Do you think it’s possible for us to miss them, to miss our opportunity we had to do them?
3. Why do you think Paul is implying in 1 Corinthians 13 that love is the most important thing for us to do?
4. When Jesus says “all the Law and Prophets” he’s actually referring to 2/3 of the Old Testament. So he’s implying that much of the Old Testament can be summarized by this commandment. Does this mean that what Jesus says here should be taken more seriously than commandments in the Old Testament? Why or why not?
5. If Paul says that love is the most important thing, how do you know what love is? Do verses 4-8 in 1 Corinthians help with this?

So what?

1. If we are God’s handiwork, how do you think God feels about us? What does this imply about the inherent value of human life?
2. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? What are specific ways you seek to do this in your life?
3. What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? How do we know if we are loving our neighbors too much or not enough? Is it possible to love them too much?
4. Who are the neighbors God has called you to love?
5. Based on these passages read today, do you think God has a specific plan for what you should do for your job/career? Why or why not?
6. As you think about loving God and loving people this week, what do you think God is specifically calling you to do?

Prayer

Share something you for which you are thankful and/or something for which you need support. Have the group ask God each day this week to show them what he’s calling them to do that day.