

COUNTERFEIT gospels



Pursuit of Power

Genesis 1:26-28; 3:1-15

Main Idea

Treating sex as God intends satisfies more than lust ever gives.

Overview

I. You grow larger by learning to be smaller

- Pursuit of Power = The pursuit of glory & influence
 - Counterfeit Gospel is: If you can gain influence you will then gain glory, then you will be satisfied
- God created heaven and the earth (not you...it is all His, He is in control) Gen. 1.1
- Created Mankind in the “Image of God”
 - Vertical: We can know God (Capacity to reason, etc.)
 - Horizontal: We then must display God into the world (Gen. 1.28)
 - God gives the mission of Dominion (power) over creation for the purpose of imaging God to the world for HIS glory
- We see that the advancement of power is not inherently evil, part of our make up
 - We were created to advance God’s glory (not our own)

II. You grow smaller by attempting to be larger

- Author tells us that God knows what is good (Gen. 1.10, 12, 18, 21, 31)
 - God tells them to stay away from tree of knowledge of good & evil (Gen. 2.16-17)
- Serpent calls all of this into question and makes Eve doubt why God would keep “good” fruit from her
 - Tempts Adam and Eve to be “Like God”
 - Adam and Eve eat b/c they want to take power: They advance their own glory
 - What this does is turn them in on themselves: Now Dominion of the world has been shrunk to their own tiny world
 - They run and hide from the sound of the Lord’s voice
 - Before they were naked and unashamed, now they are naked and ashamed
- All attempts to be great actually shrink people
 - Sin/Rebellion against God causes people to advance their own glory/power, which reduces
 - Man is temporal, whereas God is infinite
 - Our attempts at ultimate power are all eventually futile b/c we weren’t made to advance our own glory, we were made to advance God’s glory
- Therefore, pursuits to advance ourselves never satisfy
- Whereas, the service of God in advancing His glory always satisfies

Questions

Discussion Starter: Discuss some examples of people attempting to gain influence & power for themselves. Then also discuss why these people ultimately will never be satisfied/happy/joyful

1. What implications does God creating this world have upon us? How does that speak into the advancement of power?
2. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
3. How does this then explain the mission to “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth by having dominion over it?” (How does our being created in the image of God give mankind the distinct ability to do what God wants to do? i.e. Fill the world with His glory)
4. So how is power redeemable? What does that look like in the day to day? What does it NOT look like?
5. How does the pursuit of power get distorted? (Gen. 3.1-6)
6. Give examples of how in the pursuit of glory (power) we take a good thing (power) and make it an ultimate thing (idol) and then it becomes a bad thing (sin).
7. What is the role of the church in the advancement of power/glory?
8. How does Jesus typify what it means to advance the glory of God by becoming “smaller” (Gen. 3.15)
9. Consider ways in which you have attempted to gain power/glory for yourself this week instead of God.