

Salt and Light for the King

Review

- Work and Rest
- Vocation
- Ethics of Work
- Trials and Temptations of Work
- Integrating Faith and Work
- Vocational Stewardship



Affluence / Affluenza



Definitions:

Poverty – lack of basic necessities (food, clothing, shelter, safety)

Affluence – Abundance of material things (Prov 30:8-9; Jn 12:3)

- There is a moral relationship between affluence and evil (covetousness)

An "accursed love of having", which "will pursue its own interests with complete disregard for the rights of others, and even for the considerations of common humanity". He labels it an aggressive vice that operates in three spheres of life. In the material sphere involves "grasping at money and goods, regardless of honour and honesty". In the ethical sphere it is "the ambition which tramples on others to gain something which is not properly meant for it". In the moral sphere, it is "the unbridled lust which takes its pleasure where it has no right to take".

- William Barclay

- There is a moral relationship between affluence and good (law of reaping and sowing)

*Our culture is not a culture that **HAS** affluence, our culture is a culture **OF** affluence -the acquisition and enjoyment of non-essential material things.*

Augustine:

- Personal property is good because creation is good
- Honest acquisition of property is permitted
- Distinction between use (good) and enjoyment (bad)

Max Weber and the iron cage of Protestant Christianity

Creation of wealth

Misappropriation of wealth (“Once you forget integrity, the rest is easy.” - JR Ewing)

Are the extremes created by capitalism morally tolerable

What about global poverty?

Affluence in Creation

Creation is not divine, but it is very good (Gen 1:31) and this is related to its materiality

Context of evil is the fall

Inherited royal status of humanity (with corresponding obligations) – implicit human dignity (Gen 2:7-9. 15)

Servant Dominion (Gen 9:1-2,6) vs. Serpent-Dominion (Gen 8:21)

Promises to the Patriarchs

Discussion

Do you believe that human beings are designed to enjoy life in the material world? Can you think of a scriptural basis for this belief?

- What does material wealth have to do with idolatry?
- Do you think that the doctrine of human exceptionalism (made in the image of God) leads naturally to an anthropocentric, detached and brutal lack of reverence for nature?
- How can concern for nature be justified in a biblical worldview?