

Refuel Day Conference:

A3: God's View on Work

—
Steve McClure

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Get to know one another

- 1 Who are you?
- 2 What kind of work are you involved with?
- 3 What do you hope to get out of this seminar?



Aims of this session

- 1** Introduce the Tick & the Cross Illustration as a means to understand God's big story and where we fit.
- 2** Journey through the Bible to develop an understanding of work in creation, de-creation, re-creation & new Creation



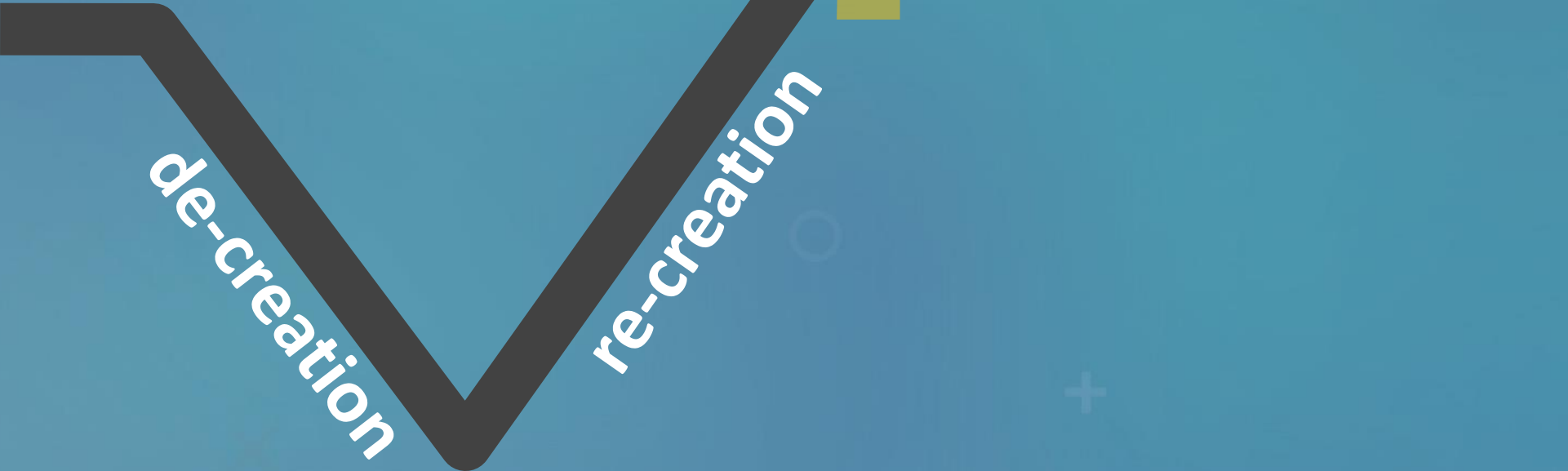
The Tick & the Cross Illustration

creation

de-creation

re-creation

new creation



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The Tick & the Cross Illustration

creation

de-creation

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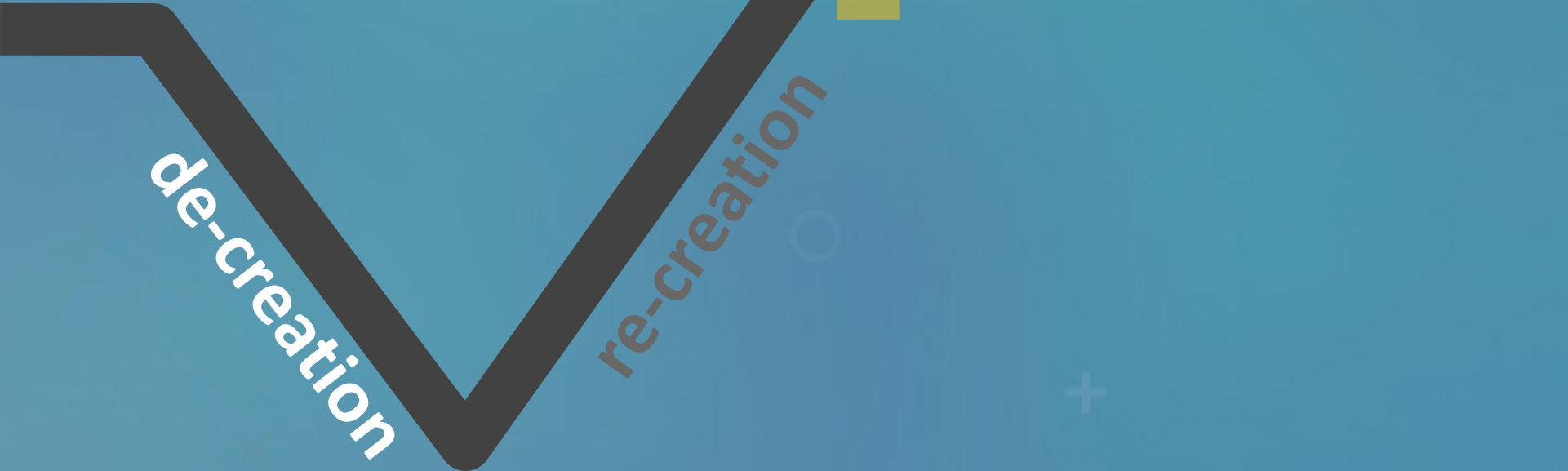
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What do you notice about the illustration and how might it help us to think about work in the Bible?



Refuel Day Conference:

Part I: Created to Work



**Do you think that
work is a good thing:
why or why not?**

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1 Gen 1-2: Made in God's image

“Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in **our image**, in **our likeness**, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the

Created:	Description
birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and	
Relational:	Made for intimacy with one another and supremely with God
over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God	
Responsible:	Able to make moral choices and given the task of stewarding the world
created mankind in his own image , in the image of God he	
created them, male and female he	
recreated them.”	
Real:	Able to experience emotions. Made to find acceptance, significance & worth in God.

Genesis 1:26-27



“In the beginning, then, God worked. Work was not a necessary evil that came into the picture later, or something human beings were created to do but that was beneath the great God himself. No, God worked for the sheer joy of it.”

Tim Keller, Every Good Endeavour



Gen 1-2: The Creation Mandate



God blessed them and said to them, ‘**Be fruitful and increase** in number; **fill** the earth and **subdue** it. **Rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’ **1:28**

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“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **work** it and **take care** of it.” **2:15**



3 Gen 1-2: Caring for and naming the animals



¹⁹ Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

Genesis 2:19-20a



Discussion



What are the implications of this idea that God made us to work?

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God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day.

Genesis 1:31



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Part II: Impact of the Fall

**In your experience
what have been the
most difficult
aspects of work
and why?**

Made in God's Image and likeness

The 4 'R' Words	We were Created...	The Impacts of the fall...
Relational:	...for intimacy with one another and supremely with God	Relationships with one another became difficult; vulnerability and nakedness before God.
Responsible:	...able to make moral choices and given the task of stewarding the world	Now there is blame-shifting Weakness crept in
Rational:	...able to think and talk with intelligence.	Now there is darkened understanding and thinking
Real:	...Able to experience emotions & find our acceptance, significance & worth in God.	Now there are negative emotions There is a temptation to hide.



¹⁷ To Adam he said, ‘Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, “You must not eat from it,” ‘Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.’

Genesis 3:17-19





¹⁷ So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. **Ecclesiastes 2:17**

²⁴ A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?
Ecclesiastes 2:24-25



Discussion

How does the impact of the Fall on work, help shape your perspective on your own work?



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Part III: Redeeming our Work



**What does the New
Testament say about
right and wrong ways to
go about our work?**

Redeeming our work: Good ways of working



1 Wholehearted Service to the Lord

- Ephesians 6:5-9
- Colossians 3:22-4:1

2 Impacting the People around us

- Titus 2:9-10
- 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12



“The question regarding our choice of work is no longer “What will make me the most money and give me the most status?” The question must now be “How, with my existing abilities and opportunities, can I be of greatest service to other people, knowing what I do of God’s will and of human need?”

Tim Keller, Every Good Endeavour



Redeeming our work: Wrong ways of working



1 Idolatry – Work or the pursuit of money/possessions

- 1 Timothy 6:6-10

2 Another danger is Idleness or general lack of effort:

- 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

3 Lessons from Jesus

- Luke 12:13-21 & 18:18-30

Personal idols profoundly drive and shape our behavior, including our work.

- Idols of comfort and pleasure can make it impossible for a person to work as hard as is necessary to have a faithful and fruitful career.
- Idols of power and approval, on the other hand, can lead us to overwork or to be ruthless and unbalanced in our work practices.
- Idols of control take several forms—including intense worry, lack of trust, and micromanagement.

Tim Keller, Every Good Endeavour



Discussion



- What steps are you already taking to begin redeeming your work?

- What are some of the challenges for you in redeeming your work?



Refuel Day Conference:

Part IV: Work in the New Creation



**Do you think we will
work in the New
Creation and if so
what do you think it
will be like?**

Parable of the Ten Minas in Luke 19:11-27

Servant 1: Given 10 >> makes 10 more >> given 10 cities

Servant 2: Given 5 >> makes 10 more >> given 5 cities

Servant 3: Given 1 >> hides it >> given to one with 10

'He replied, "I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away.' v26





“They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. They will not labour in vain...”

Isaiah 65:21-23a





The work on the other side, whatever be its character, will be adapted to each ones' special aptitude and powers. It will be the work he can do best, the work that will give the fullest play to all that is within him. James Campbell, Heaven Opened

James Campbell, Heaven Opened





Discontinuity vs Continuity





“In all our work, we will be able to envision far more than we can accomplish, both because of a lack of ability and because of resistance in the environment around us...[however] our deepest aspirations in work will come to complete fruition in God’s future.”

Tim Keller, Every Good Endeavour



Discussion

What most excites or fascinates you about work in the New Creation?





“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:10



Refuel Day Conference:

Thanks for
being here

Steve McClure

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