

Theme: Humans were created to cultivate culture by ruling and developing God's creation, but the fall caused significant changes in creation and necessitated redemption..

I. Intro – Importance of the Source

- A. Headwaters or source controls all downstream
- B. True in human history as well
- C. To understand our place must go back to Garden
- D. What were we created to do? How do it?
- E. What happened in the fall?
- F. How related to C4?

II. Created to Cultivate Culture

- A. Understanding culture
 - 1. Some definitions of culture
 - 2. It is impossible to avoid culture - living creates culture!
 - 3. Only better or worse culture - not 'no culture'
 - 4. Culture is part of living in God's created world
 - 5. This is what we are called to in Gen 1-2
- B. Humanity - Created To Cultivate Culture
 - 1. The image of God - the Creator (1:26-27)
 - 2. Commanded to fill, rule, subdue (1:28)
 - 3. Problem - no human, no growth (2:5)

4. Created to work and care/guard (2:15)

5. Develop - name animals (2:19)

C. Culture before the fall - work and worship (2:15)

1. The meaning of עֲבַד and שָׁמַר

a. עֲבַד - work, till, worship - 2:5; Ex 3:12

b. שָׁמַר - guard; care for - Num 6:24; Exo 19:5

2. Work/worship & guard/keep - priestly holy work

a. Num 3:7-8 - work of priests and Levites

b. Deut 11:16 - guard against false worship

3. Cultivation, cult, and culture - related

III. The Fall - The Curse Upon Creation & Culture

A. The Fall - the unguarded garden (3:1-13)

B. The results of the fall - curse of paradise lost

1. Pain in filling the earth (3:16)

2. Conflict between humans - in family (3:16; 4:9)

3. Difficulty in tilling ground (3:17-19)

C. Yet life - and culture creation - goes on

1. Will still have children (3:16, 20; Chapter 4)

2. Will still till the ground (3:17-19; Chapter 4)

3.

D. Now culture creation and life outside the Garden

1. Banished from the garden - to work (3:23)
2. No way back to Garden - for now (3:24)

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do we see that culture is part of creation - not redemption?

1. Culture comes because of our creation - Gen 1 & 2
2. Good or bad determined by if it lines up with created order
3. This means we share it with unbelievers
4. Good food, music, science, art are part of creation
5. Culture is good or bad; not Christian/unchristian or holy/unholy

B. Do we see the importance of culture?

1. Culture is inherent in the image of God
2. Culture is part of God's call for us
3. Culture is inevitable
4. Christians can not simply avoid the culture
5. There will be culture - good or bad!
6. We must be part of the process
7. This is part of why we must be 'in the world'

C. Do we see the fall has affected all culture?

1. We can NOT get back in the garden
2. We are NOT in Paradise, Promised Land, or New H&E

3. All culture is imperfect - but inevitable

4. All culture is temporary - but important

D. Do we see we need redemption?

1. The fall did not just affect culture - but me
2. Sin has banished me from God's presence
3. Sin has left me naked and ashamed
4. Culture can not fix this - but Christ has!
5. Come to Him for redemption & eternal life

E. The Lord's Supper

Creation, Culture, and the Curse

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-17; 3:14-20

Psalm 8

October 3, 2010

Communion

Psalm 115:14-15

The Lausanne Committee on World Evangelism defined culture as “an integrated system of beliefs, values, customs, and institutions which binds a society together and gives it a sense of identity, dignity, security, and continuity.”

Ken Myers, in *All God’s Children and Blue Suede Shoes*, writes that culture is “a dynamic pattern, an ever-changing matrix of objects, artifacts, sounds, institutions, philosophies, fashions, enthusiasms, myths, prejudices, relationships, attitudes, tastes, rituals, habits, colors and loves, all embodied in individual people, in groups and collectives and associations of people (many of whom do not know they are associated), in books, in buildings, in the use of time and space, in wars, in jokes, and in food.”

Culture is what a society has made of God’s creation, together with its ideals of what it ought to make. - John Frame

Culture is what we make of the world - Andy Crouch - *Culture Making*

and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, Genesis 2:5

And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will **worship** God on this mountain." Exodus 3:12

The LORD bless you and **keep** you; Numbers 6:24

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, Exodus 19:5

They shall **keep guard** over him and over the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, as they **minister** at the tabernacle. 8 They shall **guard** all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, and **keep guard** over the people of Israel as they **minister** at the tabernacle. Numbers 3:7-8 ESV

Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and **worship** other gods and bow down to them. Deuteronomy 11:16

So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to **work** the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to **guard** the way to the tree of life. G3:23-24

May the LORD make you increase, both you and your children. 15 May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psa115:14-15

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:26-31

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." Genesis 2:15-17

So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." 16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." 17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of 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." 20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. Genesis 3:14-20