

Partnership #1

1. Ownership, Authority & Accountability – Our Bodies, Our Affection & Attention
2. Stewarding – The Word of the Lord & Time
3. Stewarding – His resources, His money

The Design of God for us is amazing. Many of his intentions for us remain undiscovered however because we don't understand ORIGINAL DESIGN.

Today I would like to talk about ORIGINAL DESIGN.

God created us for SO MUCH MORE than most people are experiencing.

- He created and placed us in a world that contains untold fascination.
- He placed us in relationships with that are intended to be character producing, fulfilling and life-giving.
- He gave us authority over the earth with it's vast beauty, power & resources for us to use and care for.
- He created us with the innate desire and ability for immense creativity and powerful self-expression
- He created us for work. Yes, we were created for "good works" = meaningful and gainful productivity.
- He also created us for Triumph, We are designed to persevere and overcome against obstacles
 - o Nothing is more satisfying than to "win" in the face of challenge

So why don't we experience THE ORIGINAL DESIGN in it's fullness?

Why does some or much of our existence come up short...

- Leaving us with deep longings that don't seem to be fulfilled?

I believe that there are three principles that that are foundational for EXPERIENCING God's amazing ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR US.

- These three principles are the bedrock for living in the purposes of God
- Without an understanding, acceptance and appropriation of these three principles we experience;
 - o Apathy and detachment from the wonder of the world that surrounds us
 - o Frustration, anger and discouragement in the important relationships in our lives
 - o The abuse and destruction of the earth by pollution, waste and destruction
 - o The inability to be creative or feel fulfilled in our daily lives (life becomes a cycle of boredom)
 - o A hatred for work. A feeling of futility/ineffectiveness. A false desire to live in perpetual comfort
 - o A frustration in the face of resistance, A feeling of being overcome and inability to win...

These principles are BEDROCK

1) PRINCIPLE #1 – OWNERSHIP: GOD OWNS EVERYTHING

THE EARTH BELONGS TO GOD

(Psa 24:1-2 NIV) "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; {2} for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters."

WE ARE NOT OUR OWN!

(1 Cor 6:19-20 NIV) "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; {20} you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

There HAS BEEN MUCH CONFUSION OVER OWNERSHIP...

- WE TEND TO BELIEVE THAT THE THINGS THAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO OUR CARE ARE OURS...

“MY TALENTS” “MY POSSESSIONS” – “MY WORK” “MY MONEY”

- We have falsely believed that “THIS IS MINE, I CAN DO WITH IT AS I WANT”

Illustration:

- A woman from my work asked me to do the wedding for her & her boyfriend
 - I told her that I would be happy to! .. I said that there are some requirements..
- I asked her if she wanted a CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE..
 - SHE SAID, “Yes, I want a church wedding and everything..”
- I said, “Yes, a church wedding is good, but what about the marriage?”
 - Do you want a life-giving CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE:
 - She said, “Sure, I do!”
- I said, Then there are a few things that are important before you
 - it would be important that she and her boyfriend were Christians – “We are”
 - It would be important that they complete 6 weeks of premarital counseling so that we can explore the Biblical design for marriage together
 - it would be important if they entered into the marriage properly
 - that she & here boyfriend live separately for the 6 weeks
- She said, “Why do we need to do that?”
 - I explained that according to the Bible, the marriage covenant was created by God for the fulfillment and well-being of the husband & wife
 - I explained that it was important to enter into the marriage covenant and live in the covenant in the way that God planned for it to be..
 - She said, “That’s ridiculous, I have never heard of such a thing..
 - This is my wedding, I ought to be able to do like I want to!”
- She felt as though by encouraging Her and her fiancé to live in congruence with the plan of God for marriage that I was out of line!

She firmly believed that There was no need to do things in accordance with God’s Plan because of ownership

- She believed that God would bless whatever she and her fiancé decided to do
 - This assumption that “THIS LIFE IS MINE” – is the source of much frustration, anger and pain.

WHAT IS THE TRUTH THAT LEADS TO FULFILLMENT AND PURPOSE

GOD OWNS THE EARTH – Gen 1:26-28

- God RETAINS OWNERSHIP of all things
 - His ownership means that ALL THINGS WERE DESIGNED BY HIM
 - ALL THINGS FUNCTION AS HE CREATED THEM TO
 - ALL OF HIS CREATION MUST COMPLY WITH THIS DESIGN IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE HIS FANTASTIC INTENTION
- WHEN PEOPLE FORGET THE DESIGN AND OWNERSHIP OF GOD – THEY BEGIN TO MISUSE CREATION
 - Living without the knowledge of God’s ownership means
 - That we lose honor and amazement for the creation of God
 - We forget to be thankful
 - We forget the intended Godly use and purpose for the world around us
 - And we use things according to OUR PURPOSES – Not what was intended
 - It’s like using a screwdriver for a hammer... damaging, ineffective
 - We experience frustration and anger because we don’t have the big picture

EVERYTHING BELONGS TO THE LORD – As we are about to discover in the second principle

- God gave the EARTH TO HUMANS TO MANAGE for Him & to “rule over” until our contract expires..

- Our contract of “ruler-ship” will end - according to Rev. 19:11-15, When Jesus comes as King to reign on the earth..

THE TRUTH IS THAT

- GOD INVENTED TIME – AS A MEASURE FOR OUR LIVES
- GOD GAVE US LIFE AND BREATH!!
- GOD BUILT A BEGINNING AND AN END INTO HUMAN EXISTENCE
 - A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME FOR US TO STEWARD
 - HIS EARTH, RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES TO USE AND CARE FOR

2) PRINCIPLE #2 – AUTHORITY: GOD GAVE US AUTHORITY

Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God

- The Kingdom of God is simply a restoration of original intention
 - THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WHAT GOD INTENDED
 - THAT WE WOULD LIVE UNDER HIS AUTHORITY AND LORDSHIP ON THE EARTH
 - When God is allowed to be the ULTIMATE AUTHORITY in all things
 - He creates life, purpose and we live in realistic expectations

GOD HAS GIVEN US AUTHORITY TO MANAGE THINGS FOR HIM...

- Gen 1:26-30 (NIV) 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 birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." [27] So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. [28] God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; REPLENISH the earth and BRING IT UNDER SUBJECTION. Rule over the fish in the sea. Rule over the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." [29] Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it... And all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it....

IN A KINGDOM.. the principle of authority is huge..

- God does not manage a democracy – HE RULES A KINGDOM!

When people live properly in the delegated authority of God

- They are successful, productive and full of peace

Many believers think that they are living under this protection BUT they are not!

- They are not functioning within the delegated authority of God
- They have the false understanding that “What I say, goes...”

GOD HAS GIVEN US THE PRIVILEGE TO RULE OVER THE EARTH FOR HIM..

- Just as He would!
- OF COURSE THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE
- That is why We need his wisdom and His guidance
- THIS IS REASON FOR PRAYER..

(Phil 4:6-7 NIV) "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. {7} And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

- STRESS & ANXIETY IS THE NATURAL REACTION OF OUR HUMANITY THAT IS DESIGNED TO MAKE US CALL OUT TO GOD...
- GOD MADE US "UNABLE" TO DO THINGS SO THAT WE CAN CALL OUT AND RELY ON HIM.. WE EXPERIENCE STRESS SO THAT WE BECOME AWARE OF OUR OWN LIMITATIONS AND CRY OUT TO GOD!

SO.. IF HE OWNS EVERYTHING... AND HE HAS GIVEN US AUTHORITY OVER OUR TIME,
OUR THINGS,
OUR TALENTS AND
OUR MONEY..

THEN WE REALLY NEED TO ASK SOME HARD QUESTIONS:
HOW ARE YOU SPENDING HIS TIME?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH HIS STUFF?
HOW ARE YOU USING HIS TALENTS?
HOW ARE YOU SPENDING HIS MONEY?