



Hard Topics Intro

Ephesians 4:14-15

- grounded in the truth
- but standing up for the truth in love

The Ideal

Sin

Restoration

The Ideal

Genesis 1:31

- In Genesis 1, God creates everything out of nothing
- After God had finished his initial design, He steps back and says that everything is very good
- *God created the world intentionally and in a way that everything would work together perfectly
- *If we want the best of our world and our life it needs to function as the creator designed it to

What are some aspects of God's ideal for creation?

Genesis 1:27

- Man and Woman are created in the image of God
- We are to show the character of God
- *This gives humans intrinsic value greater than animals or plants (sanctity of human life)
- *Because we were designed to fit an image, there is a certain character and set of behaviors that we should ideally follow (morality and following God's standard)

-They are also created male and female.

-There is a sameness (in the image of God)

-But also a difference (male and female)

Genesis 1:28

- Man is to fill the earth and utilize God's creation
- God created the world to use and enjoy for his Glory
- We'll talk more about what this means we we talk about the environment

Genesis 2:3

- God even went so far as to set a precedent for the week and the cycle of work and rest

Genesis 2:15

- God designed humans to work (welfare, giving to the poor)

Genesis 2:18, 21-25

- Humans are designed to live in relationship
- The deepest expression of that relationship is the marriage of a man and a woman
- They are designed to be partners and helpmates in a "one-flesh" relationship
- Sexual ethics, marriage, homosexuality, gender, relating to other people

*Their is an ideal that establishes a foundation when we talk about these complex topics. It's not the whole picture because of Genesis 3

Sin

- In Genesis 3 man sins, sin enters the world and the ideal is broken

Genesis 3:14-19

- God lists a whole bunch of ways that sin effects and destroys the ideal world he had created

Romans 8:22

- The creation itself is afflicted by sin

Romans 5:12

- Sin has effected everyone of us as well

*There is nothing that is not now touched by sin

**Morality says here is the ideal

**Sin effects on us in ways we can't control, especially without the help of Jesus

**We have struggles and temptations that are not our fault and we can't make go away. We just have to figure out how we deal with them

Restoration

1 Peter 1:18

-Following Jesus is about him paying for the sin and working in us to be more like the ideal

-However, this process isn't finished until we're in heaven

Three questions for us to look at when we talk about these hard topics

1) What was God's ideal design in that area?

2) How has sin marred that area of God's design?

3) What does God want to do in us and others now to move us toward that ideal until we fully realize it again in heaven?

Small Group Questions

1) What are some ways in which you see sin effecting our world?

2) What should be our attitude toward those who don't claim to be Christians?

3) What should be our attitude toward those who claim to be Christians?

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