

CHRISTIAN STUDY CENTER *of* GAINESVILLE

Made To Work, Made To Worship - Summer Institute 2015

Review and Discussion led by Richard Horner

1. Session 1: You are what you love, therefore guard your heart (Prov. 4:23) by forming habits that generate virtue. Augustine: Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God. Sadly, our loves are disordered. Think of the heart as a compass that needs to be calibrated by habits that require practice – 2nd Nature.
2. Sessions 2-3: Genesis 1:26-31 (In a Genesis 3 World). We are made to be culture makers / “MUNDANE” – Affirmation of *a*) Rationality, *b*) Reproduction, *c*) Work, *d*) Norms. Image of God = a mission or calling. We are re-made to this same mission and Jesus is our example – cross-shaped living and the call to a faithful presence as we: *a*) Image, *b*) Unfold, *c*) Occupy the creation (faithful doesn’t always equal successful).
3. Session 4: Secular Practices and Liturgies – We live in a world of competing visions of “The Good Life” – these visions are embedded in practices and (secular) liturgies that shape our hearts. Therefore, beware! You are what you love, but you may not love what you think you do. *Q: What habits and practices have most shaped your heart? Q: What habits and practices are you cultivating in order to re-shape (curate) your heart?*
4. Sessions 5-6: Our “Secular Age” is still spiritual. It is haunted by the hunger and longings of the heart. This hunger together with the contestability of belief (=Doubt) Provides an opening for a Christ-centered, biblical understanding of shared human experience. Sadly, the church is not ready to meet this need.

Questions

1. How might this way of being in the world shape the way we work in this world?
2. If we are what we love (not what we think), what is the role of thinking? Biblical texts? (Romans 12:1-21 “practice hospitality,” Colossians 2:8, 20-3:4)
3. What is the difference between practices and practicing?

Making a Plan

4. What specific habits do you want to cultivate?
5. What specific practice(s) (liturgies) do you expect to implement in order to cultivate these habits?
6. What will your first step be? (2nd? 3rd?)
7. When, where, and how will you take it?
8. With whom will you talk about this (in order to have some chance of success)?