Lesson 2 – Stewardship & Flourishing

Stewardship & the Image of God

- God created humanity in his image (Gen. 1:27) and gave us the whole world, with the responsibility to take care of it (Gen. 1:28).
- Adam was put in the Garden "to work it and keep it" (Gen. 2: 15).
- The fall has brought in evil, toil and frustration, but our responsibilities remain the same.

Stewardship & Human Life

- What does it mean to be human? Why are we here? What kind of life is good for us?
- We are here to love God, each other and the world; this love is not a warm and fuzzy feeling but a full-time way of life.
- Most of life is work, so in order to love as a full-time way of life we must work as stewards.

The Call to Stewardship

- Every individual person is made to be a good steward of his or her own life.
- To love our neighbors we must help them be good stewards as well.
- Households, businesses, communities, nations, etc. are also called to good stewardship.

Stewardship and the Economy

- The economy is how we all work together to exercise joint stewardship through our work.
- When we exchange our work, we all become co-workers taking care of the world together.
- Individuals, households, businesses and economic systems all need to play their parts.

Stewardship and Flourishing

- What is good stewardship? Helping people and the world flourish for God's glory.
- To flourish is to have a high degree of well-being and to grow in well-being over time.
- This is simply what it means to love! We want people and the world to have more of what is good for them, both spiritually and materially.

Work and Flourishing

- Work creates flourishing when it serves human needs and makes the world a better place.
- Work done rightly creates well-being for ourselves and others, and shapes us into the kind of people who love God and neighbor.
- Households, businesses, economic systems, etc. all tend to flourish when they prioritize and reward this kind of fruitful work.

Passages for Reflection

- Genesis 1:27-28 & 2:15
- Colossians 3:23-24
- Psalm 115:16
- I Timothy 6:17