

## Stewarding the Kingdom - Introduction

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 for living in His original plan

1. God owns everything –
2. God has given us authority over everything-
3. God wants to partner with us on the earth – This includes Accountability leads to...
  - a. Power and Purpose with Good Stewardship – Or...
  - b. Difficulty and Discouragement with Poor Stewardship

### 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”
  - o 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
  - o 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..
  - o SHE SAID, “Yes, I want a church wedding and everything..”
- I said, “Yes, a church wedding is good, but what about the marriage?”
  - o Do you want a life-giving CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE:
  - o She said, “Sure, I do!”
- I said, Then there are a few things that are important before you
  - o it would be important that she and her boyfriend were Christians – “We are”
  - o It would be important that they complete 6 weeks of premarital counseling so that we can explore the Biblical design for marriage together
  - o 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?” (now what I am about to say is not popular...)
  - o I explained that according to the Bible, living together before being married is premature
    - Living together
  - o I explained that the marriage covenant was created by God for the fulfillment and well-being of the husband & wife
  - o 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..
  - o 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 That I was “out of line” to encouraging her and her fiancé to live in congruence with the plan of God.

**She believed that There was no need to do things in accordance with God’s Plan because it was her life!**

- **She believed that God would bless whatever she and her fiancé decided to do**
  - o 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
  - o His ownership means that ALL THINGS WERE DESIGNED BY HIM
  - o ALL THINGS FUNCTION AS HE CREATED THEM TO
  - o 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
  - o 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
        - o It’s like using a screwdriver for a hammer... damaging, ineffective

- We experience frustration and anger because we don't have the big picture

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

HUMANITY has been given AUTHORITY on the earth

- Gen 1:27-28 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill (replenish) the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."
  - "FRUITFUL" - MAKE TO INCREASE
  - "MULTIPLY" - GATHER UP
  - "FILL" = REPLENISH
  - "SUBDUED" - BRING INTO SUBJECTION (RULE OVER)

Satan's Authority

- John 12:31 (Jesus) Now is the time for judgment on this world; now **the prince of this world** will be driven out.
  - Jesus calls Satan – “the prince of this world” – WHY?
    - Because Satan HAS been given authority on the earth

How did Satan get authority on the earth?

    - BY PARTNERSHIP
      - When we Partner with God = HIS KINGDOM is present on the earth
      - When we Partner with Satan = HIS KINGDOM is present on the earth
  - Satan has been given authority on the earth because HUMANS partner with Him
    - When God is disregarded and Satan is given control
    - There are evil governments – That ignore God and follow the Plan of the Devil
      - The country is full of violence and poverty
    - There are righteous governments – That partner with the plan of God
      - The country is peaceful and prosperous
- Luke 4:5-8 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "**I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.** If you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"
  - Jesus was told

God moves on the earth by partnership/agreement in prayer

- God is looking for someone who will "stand in the gap" – IN HUMILITY AND AGREEMENT
- Eze 22:30-31 "I looked for someone among them who would **build up the wall and stand before me in the gap** on behalf of the land **so I would not have to destroy it**, but I found no one. So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, **bringing down on their own heads all they have done**, declares the Sovereign LORD."
  - God OWNS the earth
  - God has given the earth to Humanity to MANAGE
  - God is looking for someone to STAND IN THE GAP
  - God is looking for someone to AGREE WITH HIM – PARTNER WITH HIM
  - GOD will bring judgement on those who have PARTNERED WITH THE ENEMY
- 2Ch 7:14-15 if my **people, who are called by my name**, will **humble themselves** and pray and **seek my face** and **turn from their wicked ways**, then I will **hear from heaven**, and I will **forgive their sin** and **will heal their land**. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

- Partnership is simple
  - A people who belong to Jesus
  - A people who are humble and submitted
  - A people who SEEK HIS FACE
  - A people who TURN FROM WICKEDNESS – and learn to OBEY
- GOD WILL
  - HEAR OUR PRAYERS
  - FORGIVE OUR SIN
  - HEAL OUR LAND – live in the peace and prosperity that He brings

#### Partnership is the Plan of God

- Binding and loosing
- Mat 18:18-20 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you **bind on earth will be bound in heaven**, and whatever you **loose on earth will be loosed in heaven**. 19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."
  - Rabbinical term for "forbidding and permitting." It is a powerful LEGAL & SPIRITUAL power given by God to uphold His will on the earth.
  - The power of binding and loosing was always claimed by the Pharisees. Under Queen Alexandra, the Pharisees, says Josephus *"became the administrators of all public affairs so as to be empowered to banish and readmit whom they pleased, as well as to loose and to bind." This does not mean that, as the learned men, they merely decided what, according to the Law, was forbidden or allowed, but they possessed and exercised the power of tying or untying a thing by the spell of their divine authority, just as they could, by the power vested in them, pronounce and revoke an anathema upon a person or thing.*
  - Jesus has given us LEGAL and SPIRITUAL authority to ALLOW OR DISALLOW his Kingdom!

#### Jesus covenant partnership

##### ALL AUTHORITY GIVEN TO JESUS - RESTORED TO US

- Mat 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me**. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
  - Jesus (the man) restored the authority given away by abdication
    - Followers of Jesus (Body of Christ) now have authority to do business for God
  - Satan is stripped of the authority given by abdication WHEN we walk in His authority

#### GIVEN AUTHORITY OVER THE ENEMY

- Luke 10:19 - I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and **to overcome all the power of the enemy**; nothing will harm you.
  - WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN FULL AUTHORITY TO OVERCOME ALL THE POWER OF ENEMY

#### JESUS IS LOOKING FOR COVENANT PARTNERS

- WE ARE TO DO BUSINESS FOR GOD ON THE EARTH
  - John 14:13 And **I will do whatever you ask in my name**, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
    - IN HIS NAME = according to His Will and purposes
    - Whenever we ENFORCE His will and live according to HIS purposes – He empowers

#### WHAT WE ASK HE WILL DO

- Mat 18:19 "Again, truly I tell you that **if two of you on earth agree** about anything they ask for, **it will be done for them** by my Father in heaven.
  - AGREEMENT IS IMPORTANT
  - This is the Power of the Body of Christ

## OUR STRATEGY

- Operating in Divine Power
- "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The **weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world**. On the contrary, **they have divine power to demolish strongholds**. **We demolish arguments and every pretension** that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we **take captive every thought** to make it obedient to Christ." 2 Cor. 10:3-5
  - o Don't fight like the world
  - o Our weapons are not physical
  - o We demolish arguments – by bringing them under the KNOWLEDGE OF GOD
  - o We take every thought captive – and bring it under the KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

## TAKE A STAND

- "Put on the full armor of God, so that you **can take your stand against the devil's schemes**. For **our struggle is not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against **the authorities**, against the **powers** of this dark world and against **the spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly realms.
- Therefore **put on the full armor of God**, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, and with your feet fitted with the **readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**. In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can **extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one**. Take the **helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**. And **pray in the Spirit on all occasions** with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, **be alert and always keep on praying** for all the Lord's people." Eph. 6:11-18
  - o GOD DOES THE BATTLE
  - o WE TAKE A STAND
  - o WE PUT ON THE ARMOR
    - TRUTH – holds everything together
    - Righteousness – Keeps our hearts protected
    - Peace – This is how we stay on our feet (we stand in the peace of God)
    - Salvation – Keeps our minds protected
    - Faith – Protects us from the flaming darts of the enemy
    - Word of God – Our weapon against the enemy
    - Prayer – Keeps us Empowered and connected to the Source (like a radio)
  - o WE DO NOT GIVE INTO SIN
  - o WE DO NOT AGREE WITH LIES
  - o WE PRAY IN THE SPIRIT
  - o WE STAY ALERT AND KEEP ON PRAYING

## WE MUST TESTIFY AND PERSEVERE

"And they have conquered him by the **blood of the Lamb** and by **the word of their testimony**, for they **loved not their lives even unto death**." Rev.12:11

- We conquer the enemy by...
  - o Allowing the Blood to be applied to our lives
  - o Giving Testimony about God in your life
  - o Persevering – Not loving our lives so much but continuing to carry our cross

## Jesus described the Kingdom of God

- The Kingdom of God is simply a restoration of original Authority structure
  - o God owns the earth
  - o Man rules the earth IN PARTNERSHIP with God (as in the garden of Eden)
    - Example: Adam names the animals (God brings them... Adam names them)

- THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WHAT GOD INTENDED
  - THAT WE WOULD GOVERN THE EARTH WITH HIS DELEGATED AUTHORITY
    - FOR OUR BENEFIT
  - THAT WE WOULD GOVERN THE EARTH WITH HIS DELEGATED POWER
    - FOR OUR BENEFIT

THE KINGDOM OF GOD = When God is allowed to be the ULTIMATE AUTHORITY in all things

- He creates life, meaning and purpose