

Theology of time Management: Glorifying God with the Resource of Time

Pastor Joel Albright - FBC - Adult Sunday School for Spring, 2021

Lesson #2 - Identifying your God-Given Roles & Responsibilities of GTM

INTRODUCTION:

Q: What are your takeaways from the two articles from Jonathan Edwards?

- Jonathan Edwards on *The Preciousness of Time*
- Jonathan Edwards *70 Resolutions*

Q: What are your takeaways from Psalm 90?

A stewardship of time is a stewardship of roles.

Q: What are Pastor Joel's goals for our class today?

- To challenge you to think theologically about your roles and responsibilities
- To instruct you on how to categorize, define, evaluate, review and implement your God-given roles.
- To inspire you to take a step forward in the stewardship of your God-given roles. This process is, as Tim Challies put it, "doing an audit of your life".

Q: Why a lesson on roles and responsibilities?

- A study on roles lays the ground work for wise decision making
- A study on roles forces you to ask what God says about His will for your life
- A study on roles clarifies ways to live out your Christian calling

I. THINKING THEOLOGICALLY ABOUT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Q: What are some roles you have?

Q: The big question is, how ought we to think about these roles?

- A Christian study on roles necessitates a theology of the doctrine of vocation:

Here are 5 ways to think theologically about our roles and responsibilities.

A. All roles and responsibilities for the believer are actually a calling from God

- Consider Ephesians 4:1 -
- Consider Colossians 2:6 -
- Consider I Cor. 7:17, 24 -

B. All roles and responsibilities for the believer are avenues of worship to God

- (Husband, wife, child, friend, community member, parent, etc.) - should all be lived out for God.
- There is no distinction between a “first rate” and “second rate” Christian.

C. All roles and responsibilities in your life are areas of stewardship from God

- Consider I Peter 4:10 - Our role in time usage is not master but manager. We are caretakers of his possessions.
- Consider Matthew 25:14-30 - God rewards those who faithfully steward what God has entrusted to them.

D. All roles and responsibilities in your life are to be lived out before God and unto God.

- Consider Colossians 3:22-25 -

E. All roles and responsibilities in your life are the means of obeying commands of God.

- Consider the Illustration of a blank canvass:
- God has given us commands for vocation:

II. LISTING AND CATEGORIZING YOUR ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General Observations about Roles

- Some roles don't change: For example -
- Some roles do change: For example -
- Some roles are future: For example -

B. Defining and Categorizing Roles

3 ways to define and categorize roles

1. Listing your roles - [Christian, husband, father, brother, friend, neighbor, citizen, employer, etc.]

2. Combining your roles: [Husband/Father, Son/brother, etc.]
3. Categorizing your roles:

Historical example - Luther's Method: "The Four Estates"

- Estate of Family - Marriage, raising children, being a child, job
- Estate of Church -
- Estate of society - Human government and society in general
- Estate of "The Common Order of Christian love" - calling to serve anyone in need. Primarily through our specific vocations.

Contemporary Example - The Pastor Joel Method:

- Individual - Student of God's Word (Spiritual disciplines), Temple manager (physical body - exercise, diet), Perpetual Learner (reading, sharpening), Home manager (house and finances)
- Family - Husband, Father, Extended Family (Son, brother, uncle)
- Church - Church member, Disciple maker (Paul, peer, project), Witness, Heavenly citizen, Earthly citizen
- Profession (Pastor) - Teacher of the Word, Prayer warrior, Disciple maker, Other church responsibilities.

III. IMPLEMENTING YOUR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Q: How do you "make roles happen" in a way that lives out a right theology of vocation?

1. Write them out (list them, categorize them, define them biblically)

Q: Why is writing them out helpful?

2. Review them weekly

Q: Why should we review them weekly?

- It gives you a means of reflect on God's declared will for your life
- It gives you a means of giving them a deliberate focus
- It helps prevent primary responsibilities from being short-changed
- It helps you evaluate your stewardship before God

Q: What are key questions you should ask of your roles in this review?

- What is a key biblical command/principle I can focus on regarding this role?
- What things do I most need to do this week to serve my primary roles?
- Is there any additional out-of-my-way good I can do for someone in any of these areas?
- Is there any critical role I'm neglecting and need to give more attention to?
- Are there any habits, or patterns developing in my life that leave me neglecting, ignoring or marginalizing some of my God-given responsibilities? (ask your spouse).
- What areas of unimportant busyness are crowding out my God-given responsibilities?

3. Incorporate them daily

- Weave them into the fabric of your life. Incorporate them specifically into your week.

4. Keep roles from competing

- While our roles are distinct, we should not see them as independent compartments. Trying to view them as a juggling act is a circus. In carrying out responsibilities, leverage as many outputs as possible. When you can seek to do things in a way that involves multiple roles.
- For example:

IV. ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK - (www.fbcsaintfrancis.com/time)

A. Scripture Focus:

- Read/Study the following verses/passages and journal a paragraph about God's purpose and mission for every believer. [Isaiah 43:7; Psalm 96:3; Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 22:26-40; Romans 11:36; I Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 1:3-14]

B. Weekly Article:

- Read "Manage Your Time for the Mission of Love" - By David Mathis & "4 Ways Not to Redeem the Time" - By Brandon Crowe

C. Practical Assignment:

- Complete the Roles Worksheet