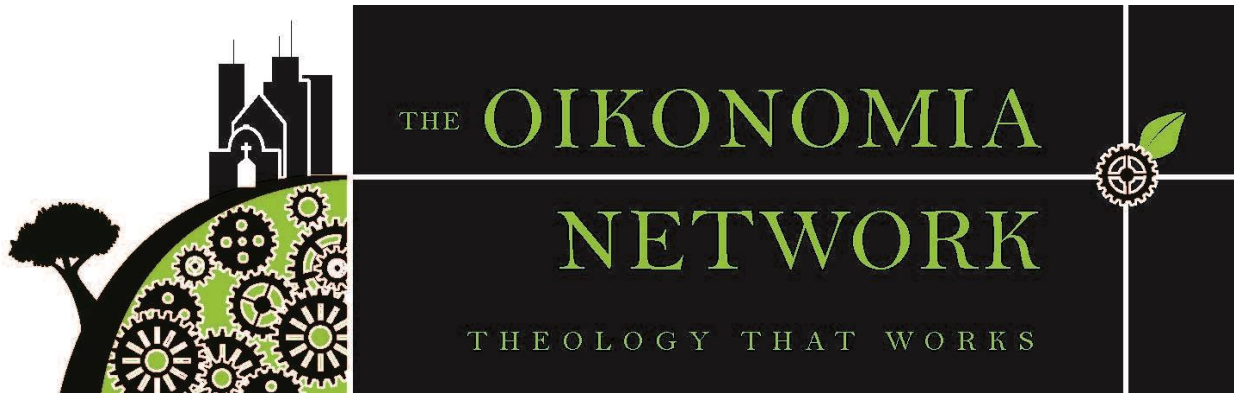


Systematic Theology

How are work & economics relevant when teaching CREATION & IMAGE OF GOD?

- Image is a whole person, corporate & individual (Gen 1:26) so a theology of work builds (Gen 1:28) a community of shalom where people do their work as worship (following Gen 2:17 where work & care for are worship terms) is creating shalom.
- Work is a competition against the dominion of darkness, but done in cooperation with kingdom of light people to build the body of Christ who is the image of God
- In John 5 Jesus works as the Father works by the power of the Spirit. So image, a Trinitarian concept, guides our working in this world.
- From the beginning the divine economy is oriented to value creation, which is far more than money but working relationships where partnering and helping are central to the economic make up – Adam is creative in naming the animals as well as rational in understanding their essence. So work is imaginative, creative in a comprehension of the nature of things
- Creation is purposeful, so our work must be purposeful, doing the diving work of overcoming evil and building relationships where human dignity & resourcefulness is enhanced
- It is vitally important to teach that work is a pre-fall reality that should be worshipful. Adam's original work was "farming" not "pastoring" but the farming is doing the work of God in the world.

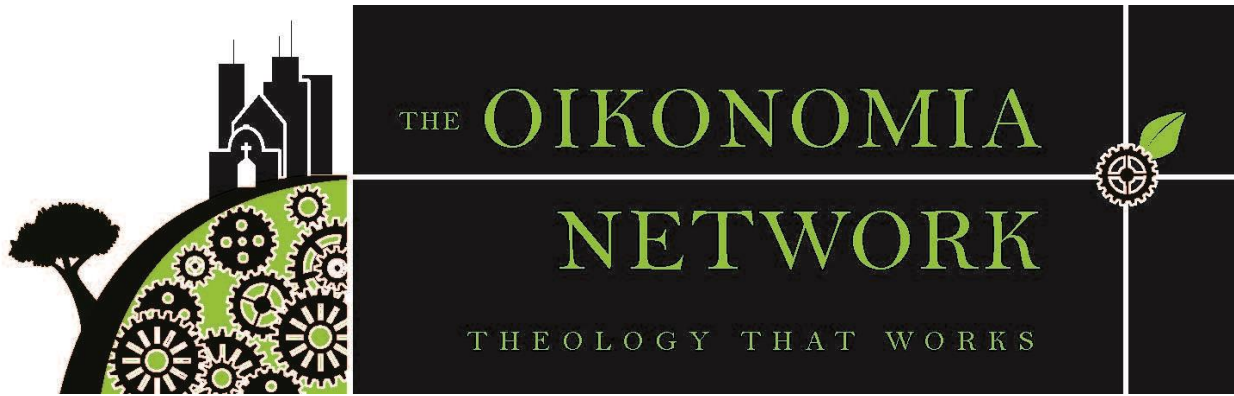


Systematic Theology

How are work & economics relevant when teaching FALL & SIN?

- Powers and principalities are all fallen-economic systems, governments, etc. We exist in those fallen systems. Satan is still at work and he has a larger corporate structure.
- We work toward wrong ends, or try to avoid work and see it as part of the curse – which it is not.
- Systemic fix takes a long time, but the individual can make progress more quickly.
- In the gall – God is our refuge – to restore us
- Some falsely see the world as Satan's domain, but the church can teach that Christ is truly in charge
- We can be thankful for entrepreneurs who make it possible for us to work.
- Man's first work was to adore God & worship him
- Sin brings many manifestations – laziness, procrastination, envy, pride, etc. These traits work against work
- God's work is progressive. The fall interrupts this process.
- Help individual to see the larger picture of what their work is doing as a part of the whole
- We value certain people more in economic terms than we do others
- We are created as intellectual, with dignity, etc. and it is awful to see that economics have been used historically & contemporarily to oppose some peoples.
- People believe they are entitled to goods & services w/o work.
- Class, regions, sex, etc. divide in the work place. The fall helps us see why all this is distorted.
- In a fallen work we can emphasize excellence, as Paul did. Bring our best to God every day. Do not beat people up for not being perfect. We will make mistakes, but should strive for excellence.
- Corporate confession might be good. Prayer of confession can enlighten us & help us to go forward in the grace of God.
- See God embedded in all that we are to do. Be holistic in all work.
- The curse of the fall – work to toil (Gen 3), _____ How does this affect scarcity & abundance. Marks of the fall include disease, etc.
- The fall brings judgment, but also his grace (Gen 3:15). Work is about administration and it will continue in Re consummation

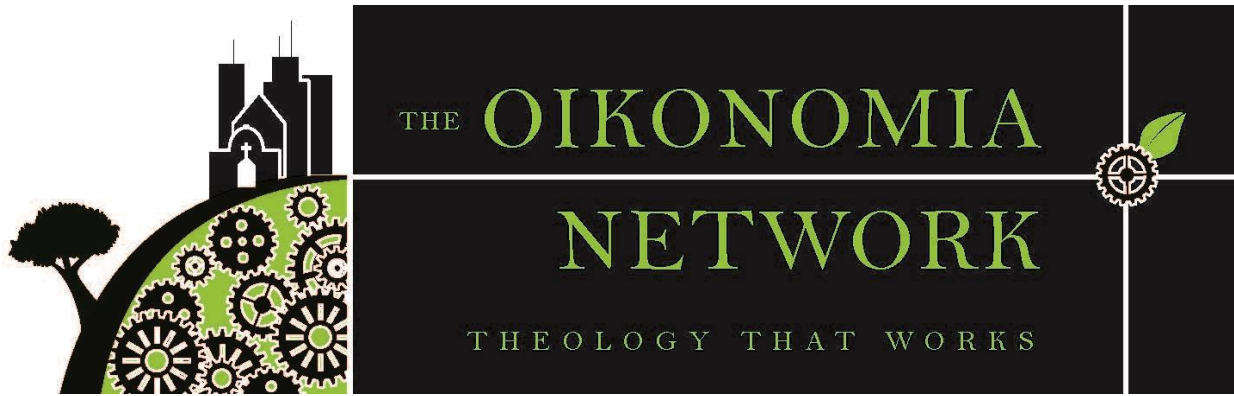
- Renewal is the work of Christ in our lives. Participate with Christ in his work. Work should be seen as a grace. To hate work is wrong. The curse may be God's grace also – to show that death will come & relieve us of this life.
- Work is embedded in the image of God, but toil (curse) should be distinguished. Thorns & thistle come, but you get fruit as well.



Systematic Theology

How are work & economics relevant when teaching REDEMPTION & ECCLESIOLOGY?

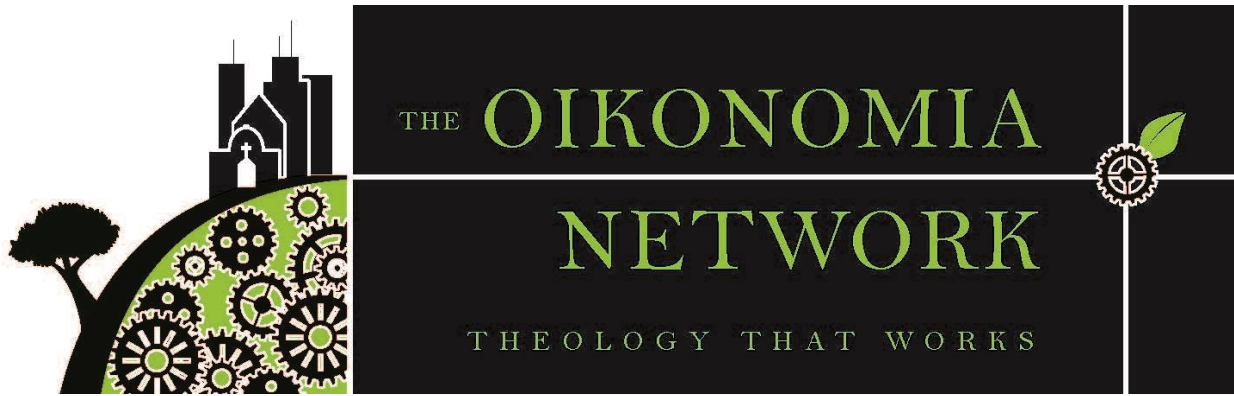
- Redemption
 - 1. God at work. Lord Jesus at work to accomplish redemption. It was not mere proclamation
 - 2. Off-setting of the effects of sin. Individually, but with potential to off-set systemic manifestations
 - 3. Holy Spirit must drive Christian living, which affects work and economic engagement. Otherwise, sin affects.
 - 4. God redeems individuals throughout Christ, but the redeemed are a community & need each other.
 - 5. Reclamation of a proper view of work
- Ecclesiology
 - 1. Community at work – achieving God's designs
 - 2. Celebrate work, no matter what type of work
 - 3. Worship positions us to work. Worship & reflection drives appreciation of what God allows us to do
 - 4. What do we need to do in our churches to enhance instruction and appreciation of the connection between scripture/theology & work/economics?
 - 5. As the people of God, we maintain a prophetic distance to our sociocultural, sociopolitical, socioeconomic surroundings. Some activities are good i.e. reflect God's way, and those that are not.



Systematic Theology

How are work & economics relevant when teaching CONSUMATION & ESCHATOLOGY?

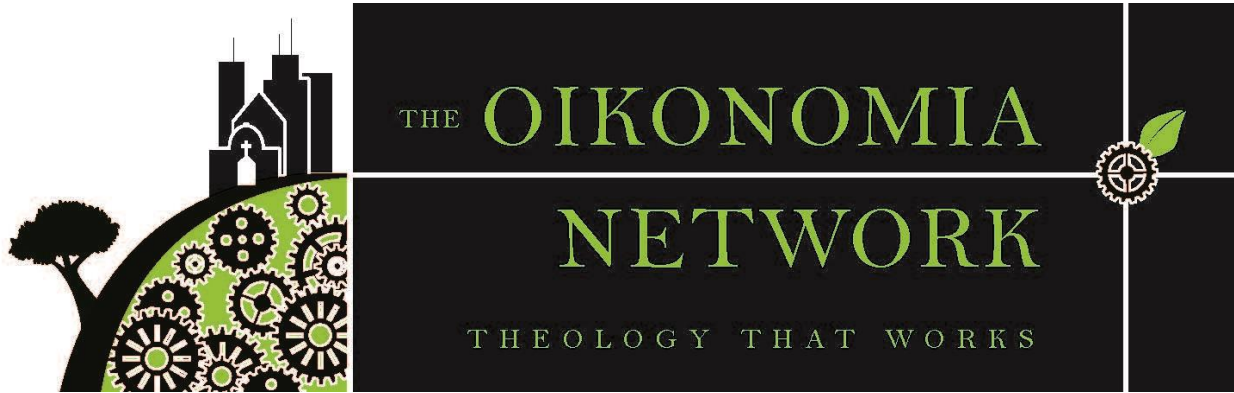
- NB: WE noted at one point all doctrines in theology are eschatologically oriented and that eschatology must keep in mind other doctrines.
- Because we have an eschatological faith, Christian theology places an “eschatological proviso” over all penultimate realities and maintains a critical stance. On one hand, this prevents us from investing finality in any particular reality within creation and cultivates an ongoing critical stance. On the other hand, it generates a kind of ongoing creativity for human work and institutions as they seek to “live into” the coming Kingdom of God.



Systematic Theology

How are work & economics relevant when teaching HISTORY OF DOCTRINE?

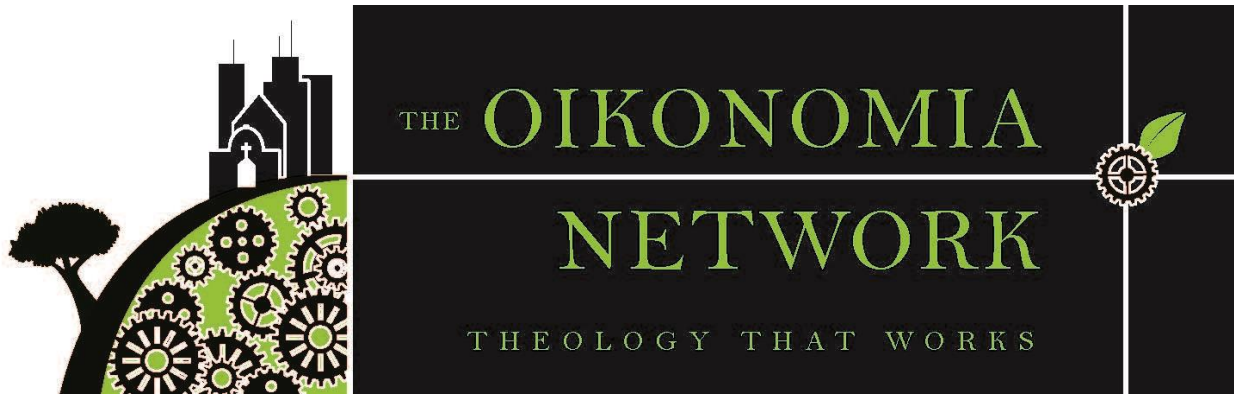
- Figures (incl the retractions they made late in life)
- Movements
- Traditions
- The context (social/economic) of movements/traditions/figures
- Q: How can the insights of various traditions (at least) facilitate conversation about engagement w/ work/economics
- Q: How does doctrine work its way into the economy (e.g. Peasants war, medieval church becoming overlord in feudal system)



Systematic Theology

OTHER IDEAS

- Teleological – all work is God’s work toward his project which did not stop with creation as an event but continues until the full realization of His Kingdom.



Systematic Theology

OTHER IDEAS