

Study The Need for Recreation

Start with quote: **Religiosity is going to church and daydreaming about fishing; true spirituality is going fishing and daydreaming about God.** (Unknown)

What is recreation? (Allow responses)

It is really **re**-creation. We do it to be refreshed, renewed.

Synonyms: Renewal; rebirth; R&R

So, when we speak of the need for recreation, we should look at it from the perspective of our need for re-creation. First, let's consider some creation stories in the Bible. Take about five minutes and discuss with the person next to you which creation stories you can think of. (List them on board)

World/universe - Genesis 1

Humans (in the image of God) - Genesis 1, 2

People of God - Genesis 12-25 (Abra[ha]m)

Now, take another 5 minutes to think about what re-creation stories are connected to these creation events. (List them on board)

Aftermath of Noah's flood / New heaven and new earth

Being born again - restoring the corrupted image of God

The NT people of God

Why was there a need for re-creation?

- Often, things that are out of sync with God's intended purposes must be destroyed and re-created

So, thus far we have this pattern:

Creation ----- Corruption ----- Destruction (de-creation) ----- Re-creation

The corruption followed by a deconstruction causes the need for re-creation.

(Probably a good time for a break)

Let's look a little more closely at the re-creation events in Scripture:

Genesis 7:24-8:2; 8:13-9:3, 7-11; Is. 65:17; 2 Peter 3:3-13; Rev. 21:1-4

Rom. 6:1-7; 2 Co. 5:17; John 3:3; Eph. 4:22-24

1 Pet. 2:4-5, 9-10; Rom. 9:25-26; Tit. 2:11-14

There are some things that happen with the re-creation:

- God re-affirms his purpose in the initial creation act; confers blessing (God is constantly trying to re-affirm his purposes and blessing but he wants things done in his way not ours)

- Discuss these thoughts
Need for a break?

Remember, though, that the pursuit of righteousness is by faith, not works (Rom. 9:32)

(re-creation event) (future) - process

The Need for On-going Re-creations

It is true that there is one major re-creation in the life of a believer - salvation. Some would argue the necessity for another one; that is, the need to give full control to the Holy Spirit (terms). However, just as it would not be feasible to have one day of R&R in order to take care of our recreational needs, there is the need for multiple re-creations in the Christian's life. These re-creations have to do with our worldview, our sinful habits, our convictions, our being "guided by the Holy Spirit into all truth," rooting out all darkness.

There is no magic fix-all - I got it once and I'm done. There is the need for constant nurture.

- We are on a journey. Life with God spoken of as a "walk" (Enoch/Noah; 2 John 1:9)
- We pray in the Lord's prayer - "Give us our daily bread" (manna)
- Our pattern is often: All-you-can-eat buffet on Sunday, An entree mid-week, Rest of the week live on instant breakfast bars

Seems that the most necessary "corrections" (re-creations) that are needed are in two areas:

- The way we "see" things (perception/thinking) AND The way we do things
- World's ways vs. Kingdom ways (Fish out of water story) - Jesus as a radical
- Bounded set vs. Centered set (religion vs. Relationship)
- Living by sight vs. Faith
- Based on feelings vs. Love
- Pleasing to flesh vs. Pleasing to God
- Sinful nature vs. Spiritual nature
- Motivated out of duty vs. Love/compassion
- Doing for God vs. Being with God

In order for any of this to come about, we must be willing and teachable.

What does the re-creation bring about? Rest (Shalom), Readiness, Newness

So, what is our ultimate need for recreation?

Certainly there is nothing wrong with various recreational activities. However, the ultimate pursuit for re-creation comes in our daily walk with God. The apostle Paul said, "Physical training is of some use, but godliness has value for all things" (1 Tim. 4:8).

In what ways do you need to be re-created? Areas of sin, wrong thinking, poor habits, disciplines?

(Give time to ponder and wander.) Meet upstairs in Sanctuary for prayer time at 3:30.

Handout
The Need for Recreation

What is recreation?

Creation stories in the Bible.

Re-creation stories.

Why was there a need for re-creation?

Pattern:

Creation ----- Corruption ----- Destruction (de-creation) ----- Re-creation

Closer look at the re-creation events in Scripture:

Genesis 7:24-8:2; 8:13-9:3, 7-11; Is. 65:17; 2 Peter 3:3-13; Rev. 21:1-4
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Some things that happen in the re-creation:

- 1.)
- 2.)
- 3.)
- 4.)

Aftermath of the re-creation event. (Both event AND process)

Rom. 12:2	2 Peter 3:14,18	1 Th. 3:12; 4:1
1 Tim. 6:11-12	Heb. 12:14	Col. 3:10-17; 4:2,5,6
2 Co. 4:16	Heb. 10:14	Heb. 12:2
Eph. 4:1-3	Col. 1:21-23	Phil. 2:12-13
Ps. 51:10	Is. 40:30,31	

The Need for On-going Re-creations

Seems that the most necessary “corrections” that are needed are in two areas:

The way we “see” things (perception) AND The way we do things

How do you need to be re-created?