



What's Trending?

Dr Sara Schumacher

Structure

- What are the questions of our age?

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- What are the questions of our age?
- What is the Good Life?

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- What are the questions of our age?
- What is the Good Life?
- What is the Christian vision of the Good Life?

Questions of our Age

- What does it mean to be human?

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- What does it mean to be human?
- Whose humanity matters?

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- Whose humanity matters?
- What does it mean to live well?

Questions of our Age

- What does it mean to be human?
- Whose humanity matters?
- What does it mean to live well?
- What is the good life?

Questions of our Age

- “What we are currently living through is a kind of major tipping point or a great upheaval... we are living the end of what could have seemed an era of abundance... the end of the abundance of products of technologies that seemed always available... the end of the abundance of land and materials including water...” **Emmanuel Macron**

Questions of our Age

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- **Discussion:** What assumptions lie behind this quotation?

Questions of our Age

- **Discussion:** What other questions would you add to the list?

What is the good life?

- 'the good toward which humans are meant to strive...the ultimate goal of our striving along with the values that determine what is truly worth desiring.' **Volf & Croasmun**

What is the good life?

- 'the good toward which humans are meant to strive...the ultimate goal of our striving along with the values that determine what is truly worth desiring.' **Volf & Croasmun**
- 'a set of explicit or implicit convictions about what it means for us to lead life well, for our life to go well, and for it to feel right, convictions that guide—or should guide—all our desires and efforts.' **Volf & Croasmun**

What is the good life?

- Three-part structure

What is the good life?

- Three-part structure
 - Life going well

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 - Life going well
 - Life led well

What is the good life?

- Three-part structure
 - Life going well
 - Life led well
 - Life feeling as it should

What is the good life?

'A vision of the good life captures our hearts and imaginations not by providing a set of rules or ideas, but by painting a picture of what it looks like for us to flourish and live well. This is why such pictures are communicated most powerfully in stories, legends, myths, plays, novels and films rather than dissertations, messages, and monographs.' **James K.A. Smith**

What is the good life?

Discussion: Think about your favourite (or a popular) film, book or TV show. What vision of the good life does it commend? Why do you think that vision is compelling?

The Christian Vision of the Good Life

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The Christian Vision of the Good Life

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- The Christian vision has unique form and content.

The Christian Vision of the Good Life

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- **Redemption:** The world is 'the site of God's indwelling in the person of Jesus Christ'
- **New Creation:** The world is 'destined for eschatological consummation'

The Christian Vision of the Good Life

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- 'Awareness of these tensions makes it possible to willingly accept certain limitations to flourishing without giving up on the vision of its fullness.' **Volf & Croasmun**

The Christian Vision of the Good Life

Discussion: In what ways do you experience this tension in your own Christian life?

The Christian Vision of the Good Life

'The reality is that Jesus means it when he says that he has come to bring people abundant life. This includes life now, not just an ethereal future. That flourishing life begins the moment anyone becomes a part of Jesus through faith and hope in him. But our happiness is not complete, and life is mysteriously found in the midst of pain and loss, not in everything getting better and better. Life and happiness are found, not by searching out the perfect Instagram photo that we can tag with #blessed, but in learning to embrace the fullness of life's emotions and circumstances—dark and bright—through the virtue of hope.' **Jonathan T Pennington**