Thinking Theologically About Entrepreneurship—Why Does It Matter?

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1. *Why Does It Matter?*
2. Entrepreneurship not widely well understood today
3. Entrepreneurs are not universally admired
4. There is a rich long standing Christian tradition and theological resource about business and commerce. Theology is an important resource for thinking about entrepreneurship.
5. Thinking theologically about entrepreneurship raises more fundamental questions, namely, “what’s a business for?”
6. *Reading the Bible correctly about economic life—must take into account the vast differences between the world of the Bible and today’s economy.*
7. *Theological Framework for Entrepreneurship*
8. Entrepreneurship reflects the creativity and innovation of our creative God.
9. Entrepreneurship reflects the common grace of God, and general revelation of God and His wisdom in His world.
10. Entrepreneurship reflects the goodness and abundance that God desires for humanity.
11. *The Good of Entrepreneurship—What is Entrepreneurship For?*
12. Handy-- Deep down, the suspicions about business are rooted in a feeling that its instruments, the corporations, are immoral in that they have no purpose other than themselves.” (Charles Handy, What’s a Business For?, *Harvard Business Review*, Dec., 2002, pp. 51-52)
13. Willard—"Today the spontaneous response to this question is: The business of business is to make money for those who are engaged in it . . . In fact, this answer is regarded as so obvious that you might be thought stupid or uninformed if you even ask the question . . . Even today it is definitely *not* the view of success in professional life shared by the public in general. No business or other profession announces to the public that is there for the purpose of enriching itself or those involved in it. I have never met any professionals who would tell their clients that they were there just for their own self-interest.”--Dallas Willard, *The Business of Business*
14. Entrepreneurs provide meaningful work for employees of new companies—entrepreneurs create the majority of new jobs in the information age economies.
15. Entrepreneurs unlock what God has embedded in his world and put it to productive use—making goods and services that enhance the common good.
16. Entrepreneurs facilitate the creation of wealth for shareholders and overall economic growth.
17. Entrepreneurs enable the poor to lift themselves out of poverty—especially true of entrepreneurs in the developing world, and the microfinance industry.
18. Profit and the entrepreneurial vocation—profit as a market indicator, profit as a by-product not the goal, profit analogous to food, the good of profit-seeking.

**Recommended Resources**

* Baker, Bruce, “Entrepreneurship as a Sign of Common Grace,” *Journal of Markets and Morality* 18:1 (2015): 81-98.
* Ballor Jordan and Victor Claar, “The Soul of the Entrepreneur: A Christian Anthropology of Creativity, Innovation and Liberty,” *Journal of Ethics and Entrepreneurship* (Spring 2016): 117-131.
* Clark, Catherine and Christian Harrison article, “Entrepreneurship: an assimilated multi-perspective review,” *Journal of Small Business & Entrepreneurship* (2018), 6-29.
* Gregg, Sam, “Entrepreneurship isn’t enough,” Acton.org (May 13, 2009):
* Handy, Charles, “What’s a Business For?, *Harvard Business Review,* December 2002:49-55.
* Pearcy, Anthony, *Entrepreneurship in the Catholic Tradition* (Lexington Books, 2010).
* Willard, Dallas, “The Business of Business,” *Renovare*, https://renovare.org/articles/the-business-of-business