

THE 4TH COMMANDMENT

“You shall honor
your father and
mother.”

“Therefore, you should be heartily glad and thank God that He has chosen you and made you worthy to do a work so precious and pleasing to Him Do this not because of the worthiness of parents, but because this work is included in, and controlled by, the jewel and sanctuary, namely, the Word and commandment of God.”

1

WHAT IS THIS TEMPORAL PROMISE ?

- Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”
- James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

2

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

- **Teach** children to honor God and His Word.
- **Teach** children what honor and respect are and why they are important.
- **Teach** children about life perspective.
- **Show** children (and other adults) how to respect authority.
- **Cultivate** the “treasure and joy of conscience”
- **DON'T** idolize personal freedom and independence.
- **DON'T** disassociate actions with instruction.
- **DON'T** doubt God’s effectiveness to help. “No one believe these things.”

3

THREE FATHERS

“So we have two kinds of fathers presented in this commandment: fathers in blood and fathers in office Besides these there are still spiritual fathers.” (LC, para. 158)

- *Why do we apply the 4th Commandment to non-parental authorities?*
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

4

THE VALUE OF OBEDIENCE

Romans 12:17-21 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Try to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes. 18 If possible, on your part, live at peace with everyone. 19 Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for His wrath. For it is written: Vengeance belongs to Me; I will repay, says the Lord. 20 But if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. For in so doing you will be heaping fiery coals on his head. 21 Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

5

the spirituality of the CROSS



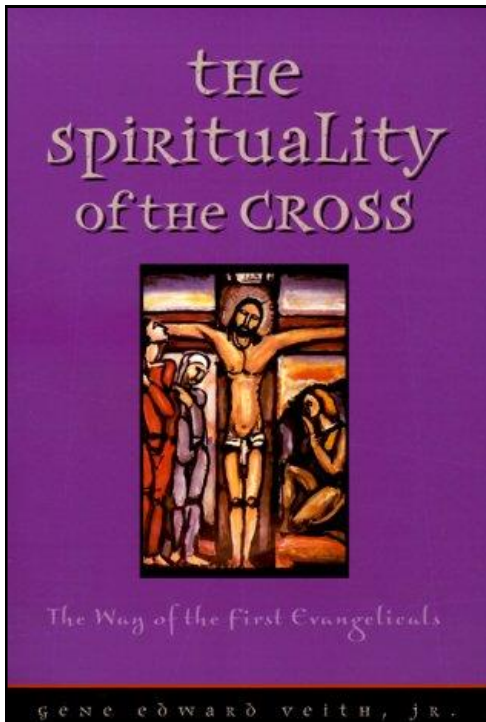
The Way of the First Evangelicals

gene edward veith, jr.

The Two Kingdoms

“Christians are citizens of both kingdoms. They are thus to be active members of their cultures, called in vocation to serve their neighbors through moral action. They are also members of Christ’s church, justified entirely by faith. In the spiritual kingdom, they are passive recipients of God’s grace. In the earthly kingdom, they are active for God in the tasks of their vocations.” (*The Spirituality of the Cross*, p. 98)

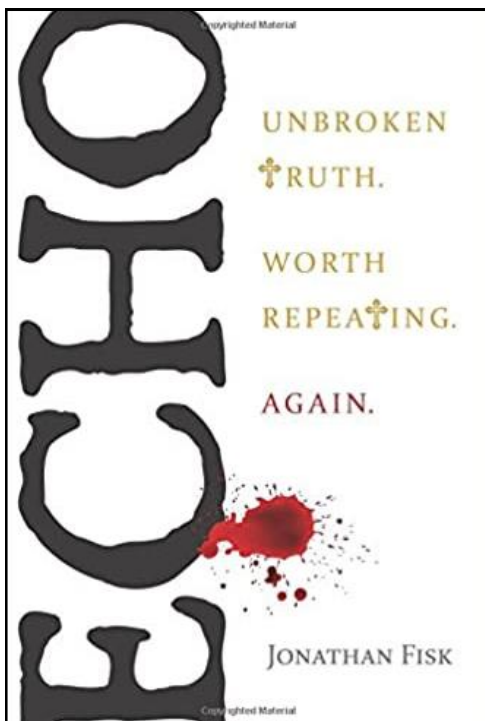
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The Two Kingdoms

“Again, both poles of the paradox must be upheld. Religious believers who retreat into a mystical revery, ignoring their responsibilities to serve their neighbors and act in the world, are neglecting the claims of the earthly kingdom. Religious believers who reject the supernatural claims of faith in favor of social activism and a trust in social progress are neglecting the claims of the spiritual kingdom.” (The Spirituality of the Cross, p. 103)

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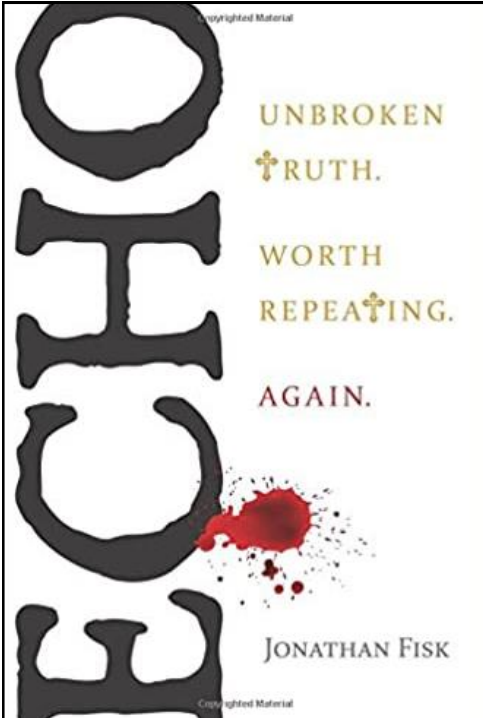


10 IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT BEING CREATION

#4: God designed you.

*“When God put some humans over others and called it good, it was because there is something stunning and worthy in **helplessness**. There is something beautiful in caring for the weak, and doubly so when that person can never give you anything in return. He put fathers in charge of their sons so that men might learn selflessness on behalf of others, so that we might find the joy of committing to another’s good even if it costs us our own...”* (Echo, pp. 53-54)

8



10 IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT BEING CREATION

#4: God designed you.

“Every authority is meant to work within such relationships. Every power is meant to think of itself as fatherhood. Every submission is meant to view itself as sonship Power does not exist for the one who has it, but for the one who is beneath it. The only God-given authority is the authority to do good to the one under you.” (Echo, p. 54)

9

THE 5TH COMMANDMENT

“You shall not murder.”

“He (God) would have this commandment placed as a wall, fortress, and refuge around our neighbor so that we do not hurt or harm him in his body For where murder is forbidden, all cause from which murder may spring forth is also forbidden.” (LC, para. 185, 187)

10

COMMON QUESTIONS

- *I've never murdered anyone, how could I have broken this commandment?*
- *What about war or capital punishment?*
- *Is anger a sin?*

11

MANY APPLICATIONS

- *Self-esteem and body image*
- *Abortion*
- *Suicide*
- *Euthanasia*
- *Disabilities*
- *Racism & Discrimination*

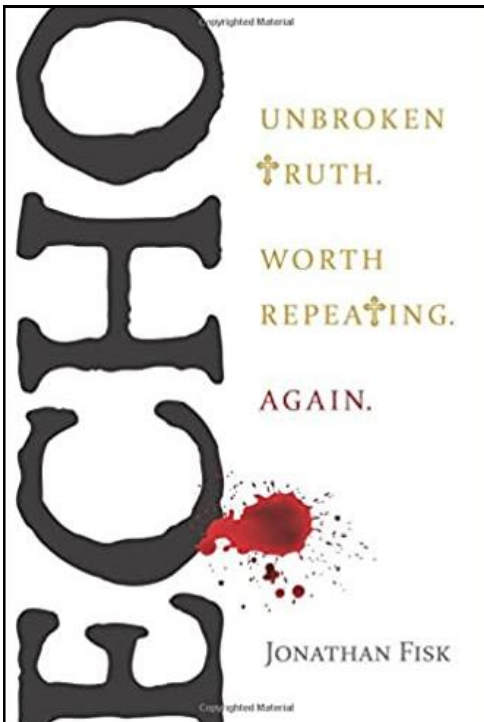
THREE REALMS OF INFLUENCE

POLITICAL

BIBLICAL

LOGICAL

12



UNBROKEN
RUTH.
WORTH
REPEATING.
AGAIN.

JONATHAN FISK

10 IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT BEING CREATION

#5: God gave you a body.

“Our abuse of the body, or the murdering of it, does not destroy the goodness of its design as the truest home for you as you were designed to be. It is not having a body that is evil. It is the cutting off of ourselves from the root of life that has made it so we now cannot keep the bodies we were given for ourselves. Average you is left in the precarious position of trying to find an answer to the reason that everything around you, including you, is gradually falling apart.” (Echo, p. 65)