



A5 **Jazz, Common Grace, and Culture Care** **Doug Groothuis**

Is there any room for jazz in the Christian life? Can this uniquely American music contribute to the common good? We explore these and other questions according to the biblical categories of common grace and our responsibility and opportunities to care for our culture.

A6 **The Spirit at Work: God and Vocation** **Clarke Scheibe**

Often we think of the Spirit as a force that stands alien to our daily lives. Yet the Bible speaks of the Spirit as enlivening all areas of life. What does it mean that the Spirit is at work in the world and through our jobs?

A7 **The Changing Relationship of Young People to Work** **Mardi Keyes**

American youth have gone from being producers – economic assets in their families, to being consumers – so costly to raise, that many consider children a luxury they cannot afford. How did this shift happen? There is also reason to worry that America is now a culture of “perpetual adolescence” (Ben Sasse) and that the younger generation is “completely unprepared for adulthood” (Jean Twenge) including adult work. What can we do to both motivate and help young people make the transition to adult work?

## **“B” Workshops:**

B1 **Making Peace with the Proximate** **Steven Garber**

In the now-but-not-yet world in which we live, day by day we have to find ways to keep our hearts and hopes alive, so very aware we are of sorrow and injustice, of disappointment and tragedy. Whether in the public square or the bedroom, we have to make peace with the proximate— with the belief that something true and honest and real is a gift from God, even if it is not everything.

B2 **Race, Economics and Apologetics: Is There a Connection?** **Luke Bobo**

America may be regarded as a racialized society. Sadly, in this society, economics is also racialized. Apologetics is typically a reasoned and verbal defense of the gospel. Is there another way to do apologetics to undo our racialized economy?

B3 **It Works if You Work It: The Spiritual Nature of Addiction & 12 Step Recovery** **Heather Dryden**

An exploration of the human condition through the lens of the addictive process and the spiritual practices of 12 step recovery

**B4      The Promises and Problems of the Argument from Cosmological Fine Tuning for Apologetics      AJ Poelarends**

Over the last 40 years, it has become increasingly evident that the universe is extremely fine-tuned, so much so that if the universe would have had slightly different properties and initial conditions, life as we know it would have been impossible. In this workshop I will discuss the scientific evidence for the fine-tuning of the universe, the reception of the idea of fine-tuning in Christian and non-Christian circles and scientific and philosophical communities, and the way fine-tuning can be helpful (and unhelpful) in the field of apologetics and evangelism.

**B5      In Search of the Common Good: Christian Fidelity in a Fractured World      Jake Meador**

Though ours is a world that places high value on letting each person define their own identity, meaning, and purpose in life, the outcome of this has not been greater personal happiness and contentment, but isolation from neighbor and alienation from the world. Ours is an age of mistrust between neighbor, disconnection from creation, and institutional dysfunction. How can Christians respond to this crisis in a way that offers legitimate grounds for hope? What does the call to fulfill the great commission and the cultural mandate look like in such a world? How do you pursue the *common* good in a world that has lost the commons? Jake Meador will attempt to answer these questions, drawing on the works of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, Wendell Berry, T. S. Eliot, and others.

**B6      Skills for Staying Human in a Pornified Culture      Joshua Chestnut**

Few aspects of our technologized culture entrench shame, deepen isolation and ultimately dehumanize like internet pornography. And if the statistics on the matter are even partially true, the number of men and women struggling with porn addiction is at epidemic levels. In this workshop we will consider the often over-looked virtues of patience, imagination and hope as key skills in both regaining and maintaining one's humanity in a pornified culture like our own.

**B7      Finding Sabbath Rest in a World that Never Stops      Mary Frances Giles**

A look at the theological basis for the practice of Sabbath, what Sabbath tells us about our work, and how this might apply practically to our lives today.



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**C6      Understanding Jordan Peterson      Clarke Scheibe**

A closer look at the divisive figure Jordan Peterson and his best-selling book. So many are speaking about him, but so little of his worldview is being addressed. Where exactly is he coming from? And how should Christians think about him?

**C7      Skills for Staying Human in a Smartphone Culture      Joshua Chestnut**

No other gadget in human history can compete with our smartphones in their ability to consolidate so much of our lives into a single device (which also happens to fit comfortably into your pocket!) Yet this convenient consolidation has not come without a social and spiritual cost. In this workshop we will consider both sociological and theological reasons why people are stuck on their phones as well as look at the practices of solitude, intergenerational relationships and walking as means to live well and wisely with our phones.

## **“D” Workshops:**

**D1      What is Stewardship?      Dick Keyes**

“Stewardship” seems like an old-fashioned word which has to do with giving money to church and charity. That much is true, but it actually means something much more far-reaching and inclusive of a wide range of Christian commitments and important Biblical foundations. As we understand these, it transforms our ideas of life as a whole.

**D2      The Sovereignty of God, Chance and Evolution: Does God use chance processes? Is there any room for evolution? Where can we draw the boundaries?      Frank Stootman**

The natural world has many chance processes which operate within the sovereignty of God and His plans for the universe. It is surprising to many Christians that there are examples in the Bible which also bring these two together. This being so, what implications and what boundaries might we set on evolution? Is the real problem the concept of evolution or is it the unsophisticated paradigm of natural selection, which turns nature into a banal exercise of time plus chance only?

D3 **Whatever Happened to the Human Race? The Image of God; the Question of Race; the Reality of Nation.** Mike Sugimoto

This talk examines the biblical basis of mankind's unity, while highlighting moments of racial awareness in mid-century America, including the 1942 Japanese-American internment order, 1955 Family of Man exhibition and 1960s cultural milestones (Civil Rights, Apollo moon landing) as presented in the TV show, *Mad Men* (2007-2015). We will explore competing ideas of human identity, by tracing their key turning points.

D4 **A Theology of Writing** Doug Groothuis

"In the beginning was the Word." How does the written word of the writer contribute to God's Kingdom? We will develop a biblical theology of writing that addresses its meaning and purpose. I have honed my views on this from 35 years of published writing and teaching students how to write for about that long.

D5 **Salty Talk: How to Speak So You Can Listen** Marvin Padgett

With the verse in Corinthians about 'seasoning' your talk in mind, we will review *How to Think* by Alan Jacobs, *Winsome Persuasion* by Muehloff & Langer and *Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs.

D6 **Time to Play: A Developmental and Theological Model** Mary Frances Giles

Looking at the idea of "play", both from the perspectives of what we know about child/human development as well as how play fits in with what it means to be human.

D7 **In Search of the Common Good: Christian Fidelity in a Fractured World** Jake Meador

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