

Creation and the Environment

I'm curious about...Creation and the Environment. Great! You have the right piece of paper in your hands. We have taken the time to put this together so you can understand what God thinks on this subject. You'll also have a chance to dig into the Bible for yourself!

Definitions

Creation: Creation is anything in the universe.

Environment: The environment is anything within creation that is not manmade. It consists of things created by God and the natural rules he made for the universe.

What Does The Bible Teach About Creation?

Everything belongs to God because God created everything: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1; check out Psalm 24:1). God created everything out of nothing, and it was perfect (until sin entered the world). Adam and Eve were made in the image of God, different than everything else in creation. God created the universe in six days and rested on the seventh as a model for us to follow. God is currently sustaining all that he has made (check out Colossians 1:17 and Hebrews 1:3).

How Should I Treat The Environment?

When God created people, he gave them several responsibilities. In Genesis 1:28 it says "Then God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and multiply. **Fill the earth and govern it.** Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.'"

We are responsible to "govern and reign" over the earth. For some people, these words mean 'control and dominate,' but this isn't what God intended. Everything we see is entrusted to us, on loan from God. We care for creation, but we don't lord over it as if it were our personal property.

Being a Good Steward

A steward is someone who cares for another person's property. They represent the owner, and their actions are an extension of the owner's wishes. Their job is to look after the property and if needed, protect it.

It is vital that we remember that everything belongs to God. It is pride that leads us to any other way of thinking.

As believers, it is our responsibility to be a good steward over creation (which includes the environment). We are to represent God, and treat the world like he would.

Are you saying Christians should be "green" because of global warming?

We aren't motivated by global warming or climate changes. We care for the earth because it is a responsibility God gave to all of us.

Where To Start?

The level of dedication and care might change from person to person but we need to treat the world with care. Here are some simple ideas to consider (remember these are ideas, and NOT commands from the Bible):

- pick up trash when you see it
- ride a bike instead of driving a car
- drink from reusable cups to reduce trash
- drink from reusable water bottles
- shop with reusable bags
- purchase digital music (CDs require natural resources)
- use energy efficient lights (compact fluorescent bulbs)
- recycle (cans, electronics, paper, glass)
- do full loads of laundry or dishes
- turn off video games & computers when you're done
- turn off lights when you leave the room

Going Deeper

Read and Reflect on Genesis 1. Think about how God made everything and how he wants us to treat his creation.