



## Stewarding God's Creation

We believe, in accordance with God's Word, that the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, created all things out of His eternal, loving, and self-giving nature. From the very beginning, the Son was present and active in Creation, and "in Him all things hold together." The Scriptures teach that the Spirit of God hovered over the formless deep as the Lord brought light from darkness, order from chaos, and life from nothing. Creation itself is the intentional work of God, brought forth for His glory and sustained by His power.

Throughout the Genesis account, God repeatedly declares His Creation "good," culminating in His declaration that it is "very good." Creation is therefore good not because humanity assigns it value, but because God Himself does. All created things, land and sea, plants and creatures, humanity and Sabbath, possess inherent worth as the handiwork of our Triune Creator God.

Humanity stands uniquely within Creation as those made in the image and likeness of God. As image-bearers, we were placed in a prepared and abundant environment to "work and keep it," exercising dominion that reflects God's character; purposeful, protective, life-giving, and never exploitative. From the beginning, humanity's vocation has included cultivating, stewarding, guarding, and helping Creation flourish. Creation care, then, is not an optional add-on to the Christian life, but part of our original calling and identity.

Because of the Fall, the good Creation has been marred by sin. Yet Scripture teaches that creation, though subjected to frustration, still waits in hope for renewal. God's concern for His Creation is evident throughout the Old Testament; from His covenant with Noah and all living creatures, to His repeated command to care for the vulnerable, including the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the sojourner. His instructions for the Tabernacle even echo the beauty of Eden,

reminding Israel that stewarding God's creation includes creating, curating, and honoring beauty in the world He made.

We believe that God's ultimate plan for Creation is revealed in Jesus Christ, the firstborn of all Creation and the inaugurator of New Creation. Followers of Jesus participate in this New Creation through the Gospel, living as ambassadors of His Kingdom and agents of renewal. We proclaim Christ, build His Church, and join Him in His restorative work until the day He fully renews the heavens and the earth.

Therefore, we believe that caring for God's Creation remains part of the Christian calling. This includes stewarding the land, waters, and creatures entrusted to us; advocating for responsible and ethical treatment of animals; and caring for the most vulnerable among us; those whom Scripture calls us to protect and honor. To steward Creation well is to honor the Creator Himself.

While the term "environmentalism" carries varied political and cultural meanings, we believe stewarding God's creation, aka Creation Care, is first and foremost a biblical and spiritual mandate. It is not partisan. It is not peripheral. It flows directly from our identity as image-bearers and followers of Jesus. Because the Lord cares for His Creation deeply, we should also.

We believe that practicing Creation care today means exercising wise and responsible stewardship, resisting wasteful or harmful practices, and cultivating a posture of gratitude toward the world God has made. We are called to demonstrate dominion, not domination; stewardship, not neglect; creativity, not destruction.

We also believe that we are to do this work faithfully until Christ returns to fully renew and restore His good Creation, establishing the renewed heavens and renewed earth in which righteousness dwells.

