

My biggest reason for caring for God's creation has nothing to do with the extent or the severity of the crisis, the number of people affected or even the ultimate future of the human race. It has to do with one simple fact: I know the God who made it all, and I love him.

Edward R. Brown

With respect to the environment, the theological principles are easily stated and uncontroversial. The biblical picture is that human beings, as image bearers of God, are placed as stewards over the created order. We bear a responsibility for how we treat and use it. We are part of creation, as well as its crowning achievement. God intends for us to use and transform the natural world around us for good purposes. Proper use is not misuse.

Jay W. Richards

Since God made man like Himself, man's dominion over the world and his filling the world is a display-an imaging forth-of God. God's aim, therefore, was that man would so act that he mirror forth God, who has ultimate dominion. Man is given the exalted status of image-bearer not so he would become arrogant and autonomous (as he tried to do in the fall), but so he would reflect the glory of His Maker whose image he bears. God's purpose in creation, therefore, was to fill the earth with his own glory.

John Piper

Whenever I am afield or outdoors, there steals over me the acute consciousness that I am confronted on every hand by the superb workmanship of my Father. It is as if every tree, rock, river, flower, mountain, bird, or blade of grass had stamped upon it the indelible label, "Made by God." Is it any wonder that in a simple yet sublime sense of devotion, respect, and reverence for all life, Christ longed for His Father's name to be hallowed throughout the earth?

Phillip Keller

The best and most beneficial course of action is not usually the cheapest to begin with, but when the consequences of other courses are fairly weighed, you will find yourself best served to have done what you knew was best.

anonymous

Stewardship is first belief, then action

anonymous

Creation Matters

Romans 8:19-25; Selected Scriptures

Introduction: It may surprise you to know that, originally, the responsibility to take care of God's earth was not delegated to government or industry or the politicians. God asked Adam to care for His creation, setting the standard for all humanity to take the mantle of stewardship in regard to the air, water, plants, animals, metals, minerals, and everything else God had created and declared to be "good." The question that God presents to every generation is simply this: *How are you caring for my creation?*

What must I know? *A Concise Theology for Creation Care*

The role of God: *Creator, Owner*

The role of humanity: *stewardship*

The effects of failure: *death and futility*

Why should I care? *Motives for Creation Care*

Our responsibility as stewards

Our opportunity for redemption

How can I help? *Choosing to be Eco-Redemptive*

The problem of apathy

The witness of an eco-redemptive lifestyle

A time for action ...

Of bags and bottles ...

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Resources ...

Following are some of the resources David found helpful in preparing for today's message *Creation Matters*. Their inclusion here is not to be understood as an endorsement of everything found in them, but only that they do provide good information and/or perspective on the topic of creation care.

Christian Publications

Our Father's World: Mobilizing the Church to Care for Creation; Edward R. Brown; IVP, 2008.

This is a well-written and insightful discussion of the place of the church in the environmental discussion. And it was printed on recycled paper!

Environmental Stewardship in the Judeo-Christian Tradition; Acton Institute; 2007

This compendium of Jewish, Catholic and Protestant writers presents a common understanding of the place of religion and biblical thought in creation care. Includes full-length presentation of the Cornwall Declaration on Environmental Stewardship.

Cornwall Declaration on Environmental Stewardship (Available online);

This statement, drawn up by theologians, scientists, and economists in 1999 presents a very well-ordered and balanced case for care of creation as a consequence of God's creation of mankind in His image, to be His stewards.

Other Publications

The Politically Incorrect Guide to Global Warming and Environmentalism; Christopher C. Horner; Regnery Publishing, 2007

Slightly irreverent, but fully documented, this is an easily understood presentation of the current state of environmental affairs.

The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World; Bjorn Lomborg; Cambridge University Press, 2001

By far the best scholarly, documented and referenced resource on what is true and not true in the area of environmental studies and trends. If you want to know what is really happening, start here! A pleasure to read.

It's Easy Being Green; Crissy Trask; Gibbs Smith, 2006

This handy book gives ways to care for creation in almost every area of life, using checklists.

The Green Book; E. Rogers and T. Kostigen; Three Rivers Press; 2007.
An everyday guide to dealing positively with the challenges we face caring for creation.

A Slice of Organic Life; Sheherazade Goldsmith, ed; DK, 2007

This is a beautiful, fully illustrated book on everything you need to know and do to "go organic." And no, you don't have to be a tree hugger!

Kids Notes

Creation Matters

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *As Christ-followers, we are to be:*

- A. wise stewards of all God created.
- B. allowed to misuse the creation if we want to.
- C. skeptical of those who are trying to care for the earth.
- D. A and C.

2. *The church should care for creation simply because:*

- A. God made it, and it belongs to Him.
- B. it is cool to be green.
- C. it will give us something to do between Sundays.
- D. all of the above.

3. *Since the plan of God includes restoring creation:*

- A. we can trash the earth knowing that God will fix it.
- B. we can partner with Him and care for creation.
- C. we don't have to worry about it.
- D. all of the above

For Family Discussion: *What is the difference between "going to church" and "being the church?"*

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

CREATION _____	TOTAL: _____
REDEMPTIVE _____	_____
CHRIST _____	_____
EARTH _____	_____
STEWARD _____	_____
PLASTIC _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

CREATION CARE REDEMPTIVE CHRIST EARTH NATURE STEWARD
 PLASTIC BAGS BOTTLES POLLUTION DECAY BEAUTY AGENTS
 PARTNERS CHURCH RESPONSIBILITY GREEN CAREFUL MONEY
 EXPENSE BEST IDEA ACTION TRASH WINSOME WITNESS

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E V I T P M E D E R B B C R T R I
N H P N U O C I N A X A E S V Y Y
Y N T V O H U E G J R S I A S F A
U P I R U I E S W E P R N C U P K
T Q L R A R T S F O H Y O A P T R
T R C A G E R U N C V A I R A K Y
I H A W S E L S L R N C T E G G N
Q E D S N T I C W L B E A S E B U
V G M T H B I T O A O D E S N O E
G R R O I B V C C D E P R E T T F
I A D L S S T E W A R D C N S T T
P L I E S N E P X E O F I T H L K
J T S E B B I N A T U R E I X E P
Y N O I T C A W M O N E Y W X S K
E W D Q U J U O V G J H J Q R K K
  
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