

October 26 & 29, 2023



Confronting Christianity - Week #7 Are We Really Killing Our Planet?

I. Why is Creation care important?

1. Creation care is foundationally a Christian issue not a political issue!

- Don't be defined by your political party but by your kingdom priorities!

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- We believe in a Creator and celebrate His creation!

Psalms 24:1-2 (NIV)

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
2 for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.*

- Creation care says we will respect what belongs to the Lord!

Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

- Neglecting creation negatively affects our neighbor!

2. We are commanded to care for creation!

Genesis 2:15 (NIV)

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

- Creation care means ruling responsibly!

Leviticus 25:1-5 (NIV)

The Lord said to Moses at Mount Sinai,² “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the Lord.³ For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops.⁴ But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards.⁵ Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest.

- Creation care means never exploiting creation but caring for it with gentleness.

Deuteronomy 25:4 (NIV)

Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.

- We are called to care for creation but we are not called to worship creation!

Romans 1:22–23 (NIV)

Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

3. Creation reflects the character and beauty of our creator!

Psalm 19:1 (NIV)

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Romans 1:20 (NIV)

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

- Damaging creation is defacing our creator!

4. Creation care is anchored in prudence, not panic or passivity!

Genesis 8:20-22 (NIV)

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹ The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. ²² "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

II. How can we grow in caring for the environment?

1. Get out there!

Psalm 95:3-5 (NIV)

For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

2. Be sensitive to the Spirit!

- Think more like a caretaker and less like a consumer.

3. Repent!

Jeremiah 3:2-3 (NIV)

“Look up to the barren heights and see. Is there any place where you have not been ravished? By the roadside you sat waiting for lovers, sat like a nomad in the desert. You have defiled the land with your prostitution and wickedness. ³ Therefore the showers have been withheld, and no spring rains have fallen.