

NOW WHAT? Back to the Basics

DOCTRINE – Part 2 TEN TRUTHS ABOUT CREATION THAT ARE “NOT-FOR-SALE” – PART 2

INTRODUCTION

I don't think the truth about Creation can be understated. Is it not interesting to you that when John gives us a glimpse of worship in Heaven, before salvation is celebrated, creation is celebrated? Note Revelation 4:11 (ESV):

¹¹ *“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”*

To deny Biblical creation is to devastate the glory of God. So far, we have affirmed that the Bible clearly states:

- #1. There is only one Source of infallible evidence for Creation; and it can only be received by faith.
- #2. The Triune God created the Universe by His Word from previously non-existent material.
- #3. The instrumental cause of Creation was the Word of God.
- #4. God's initial created universe was “good”.
- #5. Everything was created for Christ.

Here are 5 more:

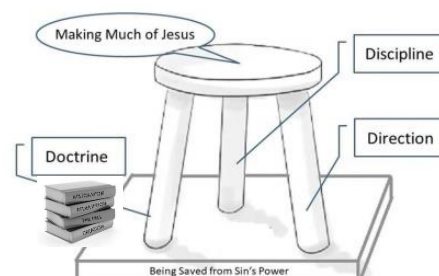
FIVE More of TEN TRUTHS ABOUT CREATION

6. **God sustains and cares for all He has made.** *“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,”* (Hebrews 1:3, ESV) (Also: Colossians 1:17; & Acts 17:28)

Explanation

There is a false philosophy called *Deism*. It's a belief in the existence of God, specifically of a creator god; but one who does not get involved in his creation. Some liken it to a watchmaker that winds up a watch and then leaves it alone. The Bible opposes that idea. The God of the Bible is actively involved in his creation. This Christian doctrine is called *Providence*. The Bible teaches us that God superintends:

Now What?



- A. Things we think of as natural occurrences, e.g., the weather. (Psalm 148:8; 135:7; cf. 104:4, 14);
- B. The animal kingdom. (Psalm 104:27–29; cf. Job 38:39–41);
- C. Seemingly chance occurrences like the toss of coin. (Proverbs 16:33);
- D. The affairs and issues of nations. (Psalm 22:28, Acts 17:26, Dan. 4:34–35);
- E. All aspects of our human lives. (Psalm 139:16, Job 14:5, Acts 17:28); and
- F. Even all evil. (Genesis 50:2, e.g. Job 1:11 (The life of Jonah is an amazing illustration of God's providence in human activity.)).

God's interaction in His creation is accomplished through several means: sometimes it is through a direct action by God, sometimes He simply concurs to allow something to take place. Sometimes He is the primary and only cause; and sometimes He uses secondary causes (i.e., human reproduction).

The point is that God is behind all things that happen, but that he does so in such a way that He can never be found guilty of sin; and He somehow upholds our ability to make willing, responsible choices that have real, with eternal results, and for which we are held accountable.

Contemporary Application

One of the many applications to this wonderful truth is to realize that nothing happens by "luck" or "chance". Everything that happens to us comes through God's wise and loving providence in our lives. Our lives are not governed by fate or luck. For the Christian the hope is amazingly profound – a truth you well know: *"and we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose"* (Romans 8:28, ESV). I cannot think of a truth that will hold you strong when the wild winds of this life blow.

7. **God created humans with distinct dignity and equality.** *"Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,"* (Psalm 8:5–6, ESV). Adam alone was created with the breath of God (*"then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."* (Genesis 2:7, ESV). Eve alone was created from the rib of Adam (*"And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man."* (Genesis 2:22, ESV)

Explanation

The Bible affirms the dignity of men and women as equal in value and worth by showing us that all people have been created in the image of God. *"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . .'"* (Genesis 1:26, ESV). This is the truth behind the command not to kill (*"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image"* (Genesis 9:6, ESV)). This means that human dignity has its origin in God and was given at the original creation. It is not something that we can rightly add because of nationality, culture or the color of our skin. Social standing, wealth, education etc., do not make one person more valuable

than another. Human worth and dignity was given by our Creator God. Every person is inherently and equally valuable. The image of God means that each person has been given a moral compass, an intellect, and an ability to choose right from wrong and emotions – each person is given the gift of self-consciousness.

Contemporary Application

The dignity with which God gave humans by making them in his image requires huge responsibilities to our neighbours. These responsibilities include the need to protect life as God gave it, whether it be the life of one newly conceived, or mentally or physically disabled, or on the life of one terminally ill. The sacredness of human life is a blessing from God and Christians should be the most active to protect it. In 2009, Dr. RC Sproul wrote:

“From my perspective the number one ethical issue that this nation has ever faced is the issue of abortion. Abortion is not a matter of private choice—not for the Christian who understands anything about the sanctity of life.”¹ “In 2010, the latest year on record, 64,641 abortions were performed on Canadian women as reported by hospitals and clinics.”² To put this figure in another perspective, since my oldest daughter was born, 3 million babies have been aborted in Canada. What God has called sacred, we should not discard.

8. **God created humans with purpose and duty.** *“And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.””* (Genesis 1:28, ESV)

Explanation

Because mankind was created in the image of God it was logical to also give us the responsibility of care over the entire created order. This is called by some as the *cultural mandate*. I prefer to refer to it as *stewards of God’s creation*. We are to look after and manage what God has made, as servants of God.

The cultural mandate provides a clear obligation of Christians to live actively in society and work for the transformation of the world and its cultures. This means that although we are not part of the world’s spiritual value system, we are called to be “in the world”. It also means we are to work to improve communities, work in humanitarian ways.

Contemporary Application

Nancy Pearcey, in her book *Total Truth*³, explains why it’s been called the “cultural” mandate:

¹ <http://www.ligonier.org/blog/abortion-the-moral-issue-of-our-day/>

² <http://abortionincanada.ca/stats/annual-abortion-rates/>

³ Pearcey, Nancy, *Total Truth*, Crossway Books, Wheaton, Ill, 2005, Page 47-49

The first phrase, 'be fruitful and multiply,' means to develop the social world: build families, churches, schools, cities, governments, laws. The second phrase, 'subdue the earth,' means to harness the natural world: plant crops, build bridges, design computers, and compose music . . . This means that our vocation or professional work is not a second-class activity, something we do just to put food on the table. It is a high calling for which we were originally created . . . Even those who work in 'full-time Christian service' still need to clean the house, take care of kids, and mow the lawn. It is imperative for us to understand that in carrying out these tasks, we are not doing inferior or second-tier work for the Kingdom. Instead we are agents of common grace, doing His work in the world."

This should encourage us today to see our work, our vocation, our career as part of fulfilling God's call to steward His creation. Your work as a student, a parent, an employer/employee or an active member of this community is not unimportant, secular work. It too is sacred. It is your ministry.

9. **God created humans in His image - male & female.** (*"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."* (Genesis 1:27, ESV), meaning God created humans as distinct male and female, with distinct roles.

Explanation

To be created in the image of God not only connotes value and purpose but it also includes the creation of gender: male and female. God Himself created the genders of male and female. He made them equal yet distinct just like He, within the Trinity, is equal and distinct. About 13 months ago I preached on this theme in a message entitled: ***"Boys are better at being boys, girls are better at being girls!"*** (You can access that message on our webpage.)

Contemporary Application

To frame this within contemporary issues and debates, the movement to blend the genders is a direct assault on the holy Being of the Triune God. To be even more provocative: to seek to erase gender distinctions is to seek to mar the glory of God.

10. **God created marriage.** (*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."* (Genesis 2:24-25, ESV)

Explanation

We should be reminded that when Jesus taught on marriage he quoted this passage to base it on (Matthew 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12). Jesus did not think that this account was a fairy tale. The Biblical teaching on this subject teaches us the integrity (Hebrews 13:4) and the permanence (Matthew

19:6) of this institution. This was the basic human institution whereby God intended to propagate the earth.

Polygamy, common-law relationships, adultery, same-sex unions or any other aberration of the original plan of God: one man, one woman for life, is sin.

Contemporary Application

The most important truth about marriage and the family is that God has chosen that this relationship project and show a human pattern to Christ's relationship to the Church (Ephesians 5:22-23). Husbands are to love their wives with a sacrificial, protecting, perfecting love as Christ loves the Church. And wives are to give reverence and submission to the husbands in return, as the Church is to revere and obey Christ. When we mess with God's design for marriage, we mess with the Gospel. That is a serious distortion.

APPLICATION

The creation event tells a story about a God who needed nothing, yet out of nothing, and for His own pleasure, created an excellent universe and people, simply by saying the Word, who would display the beauty of His Son. To these people God gave immense dignity and worth, meaning and purpose, distinction and duty. The creation event tells us a story of a God who is not apathetic to the world He created but is actively involved in every detail. This is the only account that satisfies the questions, "Who am I"; and "Why am I here?"

If we dismiss the Biblical account of creation, we lose:

- a) Knowledge of God who really exists, who has always existed and will live forever, who is totally self-reliant and self-sufficient, and is so powerful He can do whatever He wants.
- b) The reality that males and females are created with equality, distinction, purpose and meaning. Individually we have worth and significance that exceeds the combined value of this world.
- c) The comfort of a God who lovingly and wisely governs this world and all that live within.

These truths are not for sale. They will stand the test of time and they will fit you to stand in the tests of time.