

The Bible, Christianity, and Ecology- Supplemental Handout

By Dr. John Mustol

Old Testament

A. God creator and sustainer of nonhuman creation:

Genesis 1:1, Exod. 9:29, Lev. 25:23, Deut. 11:8-12 Job 39, Ps. 24:1, Ps. 50:10-12, Ps. 65:9-13, Ps. 92:4-5, Amos 9:5-6.

B. The land suffers when humans sin.

Gen 6:5-9:17, Leviticus 18:24-28, Is. 14:20-21, Is. 24:3-6, Jer. 4:23-28, Jer 12:4, Hosea 4:1-3.

C. Nonhuman creation participates in praise of God

Ps. 96:11-13, Ps. 98:7-9, Ps. 148.

D. Humans can learn from animals

Job 12:7, Prov. 30:24-31

E. God's care for nonhuman creation

Gen. 9:8-17, Ps. 104, Joel 2:21-23

F. Biodiversity

Gen. 1:11-12, 20-25

New Testament

Jesus Christ is involved in creation and is Lord of all the earth.

Matt. 28:18-19, Mk. 4:35-41, Jn. 1:3, Col. 1:17, Heb. 1:2-3, Rev. 4:11.

God's care for animals and nonhuman creation

Matt. 6:25-34, Mk. 1:12-13, Rom. 8:22, 1 Cor. 8:6, Eph 1:9-10.

Christ's redemption involves creation

Col. 1:19-20, James 1:18, Rev. 5:13, Rev. 11:18.

Resources and Further Reading

Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN), 10 Lancaster Avenue, Wynnewood, PA, 19096, www.creationcare.org, 1-800-650-6600. EEN, established in 1993 under the auspices of the Evangelicals for Social Action work to develop Christian theology and ethics of creation care and offer excellent practical ideas on creation stewardship.

Ausable Institute for Environmental Studies, Mancelona MI, www.ausable.org

Christian Environmental Association, <http://cesc.montreat.edu/ceo/CEA/>. Montreat College, P.O. Box 1267, Montreat, NC, 28757.

A Rocha Trust, Connansknowe, Kirkton, Dumfries, Scotland DG1 1SX, United Kingdom

Tel/fax (44) + 1387 710286, <http://cesc.montreat.edu/ceo/Rocha>

Earth Ministry, 6512 23rd Ave., NW, Suite 317, Seattle, WA 98117-9923
www.earthministry.org

There are numerous other websites out there of varying value.

What Can I Do?- Practical Steps

I recommend you visit the websites of EEN, Evangelical Environmental Network, www.creationcare.org. They will give you many practical things you can do to become a better steward of the wonderful creation that God has so graciously given us.

Here are some practical things to do putting creation stewardship into action, some of which I have come up with and some of which I have read about.

1. **Transportation.** Try to reduce the amount of driving and drive a smaller more fuel efficient car. Consider hybrids, Geo Metro, Toyota Echo, Hyundai Accent, and others. Use a bicycle or public transportation or walk. When you do drive, drive gently and slow down. Make sure tires are inflated correctly and car is properly tuned, etc.
2. **Housing.** Live in a smaller house or apartment. Try to live in a location where you don't have to drive as far to school or work, or can use public transportation or bicycle or walk. Consider renting rather than buying. God owns it all. We own nothing.
3. **Consumption.** A major ecological problem is consumption, and Americans are the worst in this area. Our entire economic structure and culture is based on consumption. Thus, reduced consumption is one way to live out good stewardship of God's earth.
 - a. Eat less meat, more grains and vegetables.
 - b. Reuse. e.g. Ziplock bags, plastic containers
 - c. Recycle. Most plastic bottles/containers, aluminum cans, glass bottles, tin cans, newspapers, white paper, etc. Contact the local trash collection or waste disposal company to see what they recycle and how they handle it
 - d. Use things until they wear out completely. Don't buy things just because they are new. This is a marketing gimmick. There is nothing wrong with having things that are old and worn.
 - e. Avoid buying power equipment such as electric staplers, can openers, trash compacters, some power tools, etc. Think before you buy. We are all getting fatter. We need the exercise.
4. **Be counter-cultural.** The culture tells us to consume and that we "need" this and that, when we really don't need it at all. Think critically and prayerfully about your lifestyle, buying patterns, and consumption. What are your true motives? Sometimes we buy or possess things simply to show off, or because we think it will make us happy, or because we want to feel powerful. What is life really about for a Christian? What should make Christians happy? What do we really need? What do we want and what should we want as followers of Jesus Christ? What does God really want? **Seek the heart of God.** Present yourself as a sacrifice, and allow your mind and heart to be changed (Rom. 12:1-3). Live Jesus Christ.