

Why Christians Should Care About the Environment

September 6, 2009

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1. We have to live here!

We Have to Live Here!

Problems we face. . .

- Global climate change

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- Water shortages
- Soil depletion

We Have to Live Here!

Problems we face. . .

- Global climate change
- Water shortages
- Soil depletion
- Collapse of world fish populations
- Peak oil
- Resulting economic and political turmoil

Why Christians Should Care About the Environment

1. We have to live here!
2. The earth does not belong to us

The Earth does not belong to us

- The earth belongs to God

The Earth is the Lord's

"Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it." (Deut. 10:14)

The Earth is the Lord's

"The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it." (Ps. 24:1)

The Earth is the Lord's

"The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all it contains, You have founded them." (Ps. 89:11)

The Earth is the Lord's

"For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—**all things have been created through Him and for Him.**" (Col. 1:16)

The Land Belongs to God

"The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for **the land is Mine**; for you are *but* aliens and sojourners with Me." (Lev. 25:23)

The Earth does not belong to us

- The earth belongs to God
- God cares about His creation

God Cares about His Creation

"They all wait for You To give them their food in due season. You give to them, they gather *it* up; You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good. You hide Your face, they are dismayed; You take away their spirit, they expire And return to their dust." (Ps 104:27-29)

God Cares about His Creation

"Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?" (Mat. 6:26)

God Cares about His Creation

"Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; **and with every living creature** that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth." (Gen. 9:9-10)

The Earth does not belong to us

- The earth belongs to God
- God cares about His creation
- That makes us stewards

God's Job for Adam

"Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it." (Gen. 2:15)

Why Christians Should Care About the Environment

1. We have to live here!
2. The earth does not belong to us
3. It's part of loving our neighbors

The Second Greatest Commandment

"And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, '**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**'" (Mat. 22:37-39)

Loving our Neighbors

- Environmental problems hurt people
- It's part of our witness

Where do we go from here?

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Additional Information

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Sermon audio can be found on the church web site at <http://cfcberkeley.org/english/> (look under Equipping Ministry/Sermons)

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