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Environmental Issues Huge

- Global Warming
- Carbon Footprint
- Man Made disasters
- Abuse of Natural Resources

What is the Christian Response?

Three main Responses

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1. Garbage

- physical earth tainted by sin
- Christ is returning
- Gen 8:21-22 *The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."*
- man cannot wreck what God won't fix

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- 2 Peter 3:10 *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.”*

- Matt. 24:35 *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away”*

2. Earth Becomes Like God

- creation put on an equal footing with humanity
- living – so it must be divine in some way
- all living things have equal value

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- Exd. 20:4-6 – *“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments.”*

- Rom. 1:25 *“They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts”*

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- believe that our actions are the cause of all decay
- if we stop interfering with nature – everything would be beautiful & world would heal
- Gen 3:17-18 *“To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.” ”*
- because of sin we would still see decay – Heb. 1 – the earth is like a garment growing old and wearing out!

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3. Earth is God's Creation – Given to Our Responsibility

a) God Called the Earth Good

- Gen. 1: 4, 12, 18, 25 – looking at creation it was called good.

- Psalm 104:24-31 *“How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number— living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works.”*

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- Gen 1:26-31 *"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and **let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.**" So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "**Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.**" **Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food."** And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day."*

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b) God Gave us a Role in Managing the Earth

- Gen 2:15 *“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it”*

- Gen 3:23 *“So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.”*

- Gen 9:1-3 *“Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.”*

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- clearly given dominion over the created earth –
separation between humanity and other creation

- Psalm 8 *“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. **When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”***

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- react to our responsibility in two ways
 - passive – do no harm
 - active – promote care and proper cultivation
- we have been charged with the care of God's creation

c) The Earth is To Point to God's Glory

- God's works an expression of His Glory – Psalm 19:1-3 *“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.”*

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- scripture says – Creation praises Him

- Psalm 148:3-12 *“Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He set them in place for ever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away. Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens,”*

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- creation reveals God's wisdom

- Psalm 104:24 *“How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.”*

- creation reveals God's Power

- Isaiah 40:26,28 – *“Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. “..... Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.”*

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- creation points to God himself

- Psalm 104: 31-34 *“May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works- he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.”*

- Rom 1:19-20 *“since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 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 men are without excuse.”*

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So What

1. The Planet Matters to God

- his creation – called good
- designed to reveal God, show his glory
- belongs to Him – we are simply stewards

2. Need a Right View of Our Role

- given dominion – use of – ability to manage
- we will be held accountable for our days (Rev. 11:17-18)

3. Must develop a response

- active and participating