

I Believe in Creation

Part 2

Secondly, God created the world in a state of goodness. God's original creation existed in a state of innocence and goodness. The reoccurring refrain in Genesis 1 is that God saw what he had made and it was good (vv 10, 12, 18, 21, 25; "very good," vs 31). Thus, six times God said that creation was good or very good. The statement that it was very good occurs after God made humanity in his image. Evidently, making creatures like himself really pleased the Lord. He delighted to have creatures who could represent him on the earth, ones who could know him and be like him.

In light of the fact that God's original creation was good, this means that matter is not intrinsically evil. There are two extremes when it comes to God's creation, and both are wrong. The first is to worship God's creation, which is *idolatry*. The second is to abhor and avoid God's creation, which is *asceticism*. The correct response is to enjoy God's creation as we keep God first in our life. The Apostle Paul says, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10.31). Actually, Paul condemns those who teach that God's good creation is to be despised or rejected (see 1 Timothy 4.1-5).

Thirdly, God created the world with a purpose. God created the world in order to have people like you and me to worship him. Now some people think that God created us because he needed us, because he was somehow lonely without us. This is simply not true. God did not need us; he does not need anything. He is completely, uniquely and eternally self-sufficient. God did not create us because he needed us; he created us because he chose to do so for his glory. Revelation 4.11 says, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

God chose to create us in order to have fellowship with us and to spread his glory through us. Yet, after creating us for his glory, humanity fell into sin (see Genesis 3). We chose to rebel against God's rule and live for ourselves. This is what sin is all about. As it says in Isaiah 53.6, "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way." Turning to your own way is sin. Twice in the Book of Judges it says, "Every man did what was right in his own eyes" (17.6; 21.25). That's sin. Yet, in spite of our sin

God's purpose still stands. He did not leave us in our sinful state, but sent his Son to redeem us. Through Jesus Christ we can be re-created into God's image and likeness. 2 Corinthians 5.17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Are you a new creation in Christ? If not, why not ask God to forgive you of your sin and invite him to make you a new person through Jesus Christ?

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