

**GOSPEL DRIVEN  
LIVING: PART 5:  
HONORING LIFE  
PSALM 115:16**

**CARING  
FOR  
CREATION  
IS A  
COMMAND  
THAT  
CHRISTIANS  
TAKE  
SERIOUSLY.**

# INTRO: THE ENVIRONMENT

**don't care**

**care too  
much**

# INTRO: THE ENVIRONMENT

**worship  
nature**

**global  
warming?**



**Caring for creation is a command  
that Christians take seriously.**

# THE EARTH BELONGS TO GOD:

- Psalm 24:1 (NIV) The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; 2 for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

# THE EARTH BELONGS TO GOD:

- Psalm 89:11 (NIV) The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it.

# THE EARTH BELONGS TO GOD:

- **Exodus 19:5 (NIV) Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,**

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# THE EARTH BELONGS TO GOD:

- **Genesis 1:31 (NIV) God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.**

# **THE EARTH BELONGS TO GOD:**

- **The earth is valuable, precious, irreplaceable, and sacred.**
- **We honor God when we honor God's creation.**

# **GOD APPOINTED HUMANITY WITH DOMINION OVER THE EARTH:**

- **Psalm 115:16 (NIV) The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to man.**

# **GOD APPOINTED HUMANITY WITH DOMINION OVER THE EARTH:**

- **Genesis 1:28 (NIV) ...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."**

# **GOD APPOINTED HUMANITY WITH DOMINION OVER THE EARTH:**

- **Genesis 2:15 (NIV) The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.**

# **GOD APPOINTED HUMANITY WITH DOMINION OVER THE EARTH:**

- **subdue and rule = absolute control.**
- **humanity is fully in charge on My behalf.**

# **GOD APPOINTED HUMANITY WITH DOMINION OVER THE EARTH:**

- **We are the earth's vice regents.**

**THE EARTH HAS INTRINSIC VALUE AND REFLECTS  
THE CHARACTER AND BEAUTY OF THE CREATOR:**

- **Psalm 19:1 (NIV) The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.**



**THE EARTH HAS INTRINSIC VALUE AND REFLECTS THE CHARACTER AND BEAUTY OF THE CREATOR:**

- **Romans 1:20 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.**

**THE EARTH HAS INTRINSIC VALUE AND REFLECTS THE CHARACTER AND BEAUTY OF THE CREATOR:**

- **God intends His creation to announce and communicate who He is and what He is like.**

**THE EARTH HAS INTRINSIC VALUE AND REFLECTS THE CHARACTER AND BEAUTY OF THE CREATOR:**

- **Free to explore but not exploit, enjoy but not worship creation but worship the Creator.**

# HUMANITY IS PLACED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CREATED HIERARCHY

- **Psalm 8:5** You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:

# HUMANITY IS PLACED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CREATED HIERARCHY

- Proverbs 12:10 (NIV) A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel. 11 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.

# **HUMANITY IS PLACED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CREATED HIERARCHY**

- **God / angels / humans / creation:**
- **responsibility, stewardship role up to our Creator**
- **responsibility downward the rest of creation with delicate balance of use and preservation and restoration.**

# **HUMANITY IS PLACED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CREATED HIERARCHY**

- **We need to own our waste, ignorance, and lack of care and concern for the world God entrusted to us.**
- **We are to be productive but wisely.**

# GOD COMMANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- **Leviticus 25:2b ... the land itself must observe a sabbath to the LORD.**
- **Leviticus 25:11 The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines.**



# **GOD COMMANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

- **Leviticus 25:23 (NIV) "The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants.**

# **GOD COMMANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

- **God instructed them to take care of the land so that it would continue to fruitfully produce.**
- **They were to not exploit the land and make it useless for the future.**

# CHRIST'S REDEMPTIVE WORK INCLUDES THE EARTH:

- **Romans 8:21 ...that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.**

# CHRIST'S REDEMPTIVE WORK INCLUDES THE EARTH:

- **Revelation 21:5 (NIV) He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"**

# **CHRIST'S REDEMPTIVE WORK INCLUDES THE EARTH:**

- **Jesus demonstrated His dominion over the earth through His earthly miracles.**
- **We will rule under King Jesus and care for creation.**

## WHAT DO WE DO?

- **So, explore and enjoy creation while not exploiting or worshipping it.**

## WHAT DO WE DO?

- **Go outside and be active.**
- **Use the land and resources wisely.**
- **Be aware that some do try and use “crises” for their own advantage.**