

Week 6: The Doctrine of Creation

The doctrine of creation is foundational to the Christian faith, revealing God as the sovereign Creator of all things. This week, we explore the biblical account of creation, the theological significance of creation ex nihilo (creation out of nothing), and God's ongoing relationship with His creation.

The Biblical Account of Creation

The Bible begins with the profound declaration of God's creative power and purpose, setting the stage for His relationship with humanity and the world.

Genesis 1-2: The Creation Narratives

Order and Purpose: Genesis 1 portrays a structured account of God's creation over six days, culminating in the creation of humanity in His image (Genesis 1:26-27).

Intimacy and Provision: Genesis 2 offers a more personal view of creation, emphasizing God's care in forming Adam and Eve and placing them in the Garden of Eden.

Goodness of Creation: God repeatedly declares His creation "good" (Genesis 1:31), affirming the inherent value and beauty of the world.

Other Scriptural Testimonies

Psalm 19:1-4 celebrates creation as a testimony to God's glory: "The heavens declare the glory of God."

John 1:1-3 identifies Jesus, the Word, as the agent of creation, emphasizing the unity of the Trinity in the creative act.

Theological Significance of Creation ex Nihilo

The phrase creation ex nihilo affirms that God created everything from nothing, highlighting His unmatched power and sovereignty.

God's Sovereignty

Only God has the power to bring existence out of nothing, demonstrating His ultimate authority over all creation (Hebrews 11:3).

Creation is not eternal; it is dependent on God for its existence and sustenance.

Affirmation of God's Goodness

Everything God created is inherently good, countering any dualistic view that matter or the physical world is evil.

This goodness underscores God's intention for His creation to flourish and reflect His glory (Psalm 104:24).

Human Responsibility

Humanity's role as stewards of creation flows from God's sovereign act. We are entrusted with the care of the earth as co-laborers with Him (Genesis 2:15).

God's Ongoing Relationship with Creation

Creation is not a one-time act; it is an ongoing relationship in which God sustains, governs, and redeems His world.

Sustainer of All Things

God actively upholds creation: "In Him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17). The world continues to exist because of His sustaining power.

His providence ensures that creation fulfills His purposes (Acts 17:24-28).

Redeemer of Creation

Sin has marred creation, but God's redemptive plan includes the restoration of all things (Romans 8:19-21).

The new creation promised in Revelation 21-22 points to a future where God's glory fully restores His world.

God's Presence in Creation

God's immanence assures us of His closeness to creation, while His transcendence reminds us of His majesty and holiness.

His presence is seen in the natural world (Psalm 95:4-5), His provision (Matthew 6:26-30), and His promises of renewal.

Conclusion

The doctrine of creation reveals God as the powerful, purposeful, and personal Creator. His creation reflects His glory, invites us to marvel at His greatness, and calls us to fulfill our role as stewards. Understanding creation strengthens our worship, deepens our gratitude, and shapes our responsibility toward the world and one another.

Next week, we will explore the doctrine of humanity, examining what it means to be created in the image of God and the implications for our identity and purpose.