

Imago Dei: Stewards of God's Creation

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.
Genesis 1:27 – 28

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein... Ps. 24:1

It is more in keeping with the text to move away from a human-centered view of the cosmos. God has created the cosmos for Himself, not for us, though it is true that He has given us high status and privilege in this world of His. Thus, our role in subduing and ruling must be seen as a function of stewardship, not of ownership.
John Walton

Introduction: What Planet are you on?

1. Stewardship of the Environment: Three Views

- Creation-Centred (Biocentrism) – All inhabitants of Creation in the cosmos are of equal status.
- Man-Centred (Anthropocentrism) – Creation given to humans to use for our own purposes.
- God-Centred (Theocentric) – We steward all creation with respect because it belongs to God.

2. Custodians of God's Creation: How Should we then Live?

- Focused on Eternity (while living in the moment) –
- Avoiding Extremes (while getting the facts) –
- Living Responsibly (while helping those who suffer) –

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. What environmental extremes do we see on earth today? How do we get our information?
- ii. How should the Christian worldview shape the conversation about the environment?
- iii. What are the challenges in knowing how to live responsibly as God's stewards?
- iv. What are 1 – 2 examples of areas we could do better in concerning our stewardship?