

SRM14053

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“Pass It On: the Creator”

Isaiah 64:8

Christians are people who have changed their focus in life from living to serve themselves to living to serve the heavenly Father by trusting in and following Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day this year, we are considering the essentials of the faith we want to “pass on” to our natural and spiritual children. We began last week with the four basic attributes of Scripture: SCAN: Sufficiency, Clarity, Authority and Necessity.

I recommended Kevin DeYoung’s book, Taking God At His Word then. Another new book on defending the Bible is Truth Matters, Confident Faith in a Confusing World, by Kostenburger, Bock and Chatraw.

This week I ask you to consider the most practical teaching of the Bible about the nature of God Himself: that He is the Creator. In doing this, we are skipping over what the Bible says about the essential nature of God. Our Affirmation of Faith says.
 “2. THE TRINITY - We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that they are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. (Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-4; I John 5:7)

3. GOD THE FATHER - We believe in God the Father, an infinite personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of mankind, that He hears and answers prayer, that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (John 3:16-17; John 4:24; John 17:5)”

The Bible says in Isaiah 64:8, “But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.”

The Bible tells us who He is, How He acts, and what he does. God is the Infinite, Personal and Perfect Commander, Provider, & Protector.

The basic thing you and I need to know and to pass on to children and others about what God has done for us is that He is the Creator that made us.

The 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith says, (ch. 4),

“1. In the beginning it pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, to create or make the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good.

2. After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, rendering them fit unto that life to God for which they were created; being made after the image of God, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness; having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it, and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject to change.”

The first statement tells us the who, what, when, and why of the creation or everything.

The second tells us about God's creation of the human race.

1. What about the World?

Who? God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

What? He made “the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible”

When? In the beginning, in the space of six days.

Why? “it pleased[God] for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness”

This is no more than an attempt to say what the Bible says. Let’s look at the supporting texts.

Genesis 1:1 (NKJV) “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

That says the Father created everything we see.

John 1:2-3 (NKJV) He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” AND

Hebrews 1:2 (NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Here Jesus is the “Word” that was also creating.

Job 26:13 (NKJV) By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent.”

The Holy Spirit involved in creation.

Romans 1:20 (NKJV) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”.

God did it to reveal His “invisible attributes”, His “Power and Godhead [divine nature]”.

“not a mere blind force, or pantheistic "spirit of nature," but the power of a living Godhead. [JFB]

Colossians 1:16 (NKJV) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Genesis 1:31 (NKJV) Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Here we see the “goodness” of creation.

What about death, pain and suffering? These came only after the curse of human sin, alienation from the life-giver caused them.

What about the “six days”?

Besides Gen. 1, there is Exodus 20:11 (NKJV) For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

The question for the Christian who believes the Bible is true truth is not, “Was it in six days?”, but what does that mean?

The word “day” is not always used to mean 24 hours. “The day of the Lord”. Their length is not specified.

2 Peter 3:8 (NKJV) But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” was never intended as an axiom for calculating.

But the ordinary sense implied is days as we know them.

Some Christians have tried to reconcile this with the modern evolutionary theory. There are problems in trying to do this.

Many books are helpful:
The Creation Answers Book by Creation Ministries International (Batten, ed.)

The Reason for God, Tim Keller. Chapter six: “Science has Disproved Christianity” deals with What role does mystery and miracles play in faith? Keller speaks of a “war” between science and religion. Keller claims the skeptical inquirer does not need to accept any one of the positions regarding the meaning of Genesis 1 and the nature of evolution in order to embrace the Christian faith.

Should Christians Embrace Evolution?: Biblical and Scientific Responses by Norman C. Nevin (Editor). In the forward, Wayne Grudem writes, “What is at stake? A lot: the truthfulness of the three foundational chapters for the entire Bible (Genesis 1 – 4), belief in the unity of the human race, belief in the ontological uniqueness of human beings among all God’s creatures, belief in the special creation of Adam and Eve in the image of God, belief in the parallel between condemnation through representation by Adam and salvation through representation by

Christ, belief in the goodness of God's original creation, belief that suffering and death today are the result of sin and not part of God's original creation, and belief that natural disasters today are the result of the fall and not part of God's original creation. Belief in evolution erodes the foundations.

Another book: Redeeming Science: A God-Centered Approach by Vern Poythress. Written by a New Testament Professor that also has a PhD in mathematics, "*Redeeming Science* attempts to kindle our appreciation for science as it ought to be—science that could serve as a path for praising God and serving fellow human beings. Through examining the wonderfully complex and immutable laws of nature, author Vern Poythress explains, we ought to recognize the wisdom, care, and beauty of God. A Christian worldview restores a true response to science, where we praise the God who created nature and cares for it."

2. What about the origin of humanity?

The second statement from the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith tells us about God's creation of the human race.

2. After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, rendering them fit unto that life to God for which they were created; being made after the image of God, in knowledge,

righteousness, and true holiness; having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it, and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject to change."

Let's look at those supporting texts:

Genesis 1:27 (NKJV) So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

The image of God has nothing to do with outward appearance, since God is essentially a spirit.

It is not, as a column in the Gardner News imagines: "Since we do not know what God's image or likeness was, we don't know whether God looked stooped over like Neanderthal man, or just like we do today! All we know is that God created us male and female, and since God is in Essence a divine Spirit, there must be a female component to this Entity that we call God! And so I believe that the three divine Spirits of the Holy Trinity must have been in the shape of two men, and a woman!"

The image of God has to do with our "knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness".

Genesis 2:7 (NKJV) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Here humanity is uniquely created and formed by God, and not like the animals.

Ecclesiastes 7:29 (NKJV) Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes."

Humanity was created righteous, but departed from God to follow "many schemes".

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV) Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

We were created to be stewards of creation.

Romans 2:14-15 (NKJV) for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

Adam and Eve were created "having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it, and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject to change."

Genesis 3:6 (NKJV) So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

This act of disobedience was committed after they began to doubt the goodness of God.

3. The appropriate response to God's act of creation is not simply belief, but Worship.

Even those who are atheists, when they observe the creation, are driven to worship.

Science tells us that for creation and life to occur, three things are needed: matter, energy and information. It has no explanation for how these came to exist. It is the conclusion of reasonable faith to attribute this to God.

Don't be afraid of the questions. Don't be bluffed by "Everyone intelligent believes this", or "There is no answer to this" (Truth Matters).

Life is a sacred gift from God, and there are many things unknown to modern science.

III. Dr. Charles R. Swindoll shared on Insight for Living, the story of the birth of Dr. John Walvoord. For over 30 years he was president of Dallas Theological Seminary. Shortly before he was born, Dr. Walvoord's mother was terribly sick. So sick that even back then the physician, who seldom gave such counsel, counseled her to have an abortion. And illegal though it would have been back then, he encouraged her to somehow find a way not to have this child because of her illness. She surely would not live through it and perhaps not even the baby. She chose against that counsel, and not only has Dr. John Walvoord lived many years and shaped much of evangelical Christianity, his mother lived on to be over 100. [TOPIC: God INDEX: 3415-3421 SUBTOPIC: Sovereignty of]

But more will be needed than your skimming of the Bible and knowledge of the Bible stories.

Jesus confronted unbelief by appealing to the Scripture: John 5:39 (NKJV) "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."

Action: Ask the hard questions, study, and don't give up.

Pray for God to give you the answers you need for a reasoned faith.

Pass what you have learned on.