

Caring for Creation: A Christian Responsibility

by Beth Olson

ALTHOUGH we may not often discuss it or in some cases we may not even be aware of it—the Bible is clear: we are to care for God's Creation.

"If I am going to be in the right relationship with God, I should treat the things He has made in the same way He treats them." Francis Schaeffer, *Pollution and the Death of Man*.

Caring for creation is a Biblical mandate from God. Scripture affirms the beauty of creation and God's love for all creation—both human and non-human. God, in infinite wisdom, ordered the planet so that it all works together in harmony relentlessly praising God. When we disrupt that harmony, it is the least of these who most often experience the greatest suffering. Christ's command to love our neighbor as ourselves is linked with our responsibility to protect and care for the entire creation.

Being stewards of God's resources means careful consideration of how our actions impact the planet and all its inhabitants, including not only how much energy we consume but how our energy is produced.

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP INCLUDES ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:

- Establish a Creation Care Council in your congregation.
- Conduct Bible studies on environmental stewardship.
- Focus on creation care in worship through sermons, hymns, and readings.

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Francis Schaeffer, *Pollution and the Death of Man*

- Explore the possibilities of establishing recycling projects at church.
- Investigate energy conservation options open to the church. Do an energy audit to identify opportunities for churches to save and conserve.
- Explore the expanding opportunities for churches to use renewable energy sources, such as solar.
- Purchase Renewable Energy Credits to help reduce global warming and air pollution.

DO YOUR PART TO CLEAN UP AND PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT:

- Drive well maintained fuel efficient cars.
- Explore cost-efficient ways to conserve energy.
- Conserve water and other precious natural resources.
- Recycle items which are sensible to recycle.
- Switch to renewable and environmentally friendly sources of energy whenever it is possible to do so.

COMMUNICATE THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TO YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS:

- Write your State and National representatives and let them know you are concerned with environmental issues in your area.


- Raise awareness in your community about the vital role of public officials.

CREATE A PRO-ENVIRONMENTAL EXPECTATION IN THE CORPORATE WORLD:

Buy products from local vendors and producers whenever possible.

- Shop at local farmers markets.
- Buy products that use recycled materials or are energy-efficient to operate and produce.
- Encourage environmentally friendly practices in your business or company.

"The growing possibility of our destroying ourselves and the world with our own neglect and excess is tragic and very real."

Billy Graham, *Approaching Hoofbeats*, 1983. 

Author

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