



FBCD Women's Theology Study

Do You Believe? by Paul Tripp - Chapters 11 & 12 (Creation)

February 18, 2024

THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION

"The doctrine of creation states that God, who alone is uncreated and eternal, has formed and given existence to everything outside of himself. He did this from nothing by the word of his power, and all of it was very good" (Guy M. Richard).

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

"Don't read Genesis 1 and 2 in some kind of monotone. Don't let the astonishing glory of what is being described elude you. Genesis 1 and 2 are meant to take your breath away, and if they don't, you haven't handled them properly. Genesis 1 and 2 are meant to put you in your place and insert God in his proper place in your heart and life" (Tripp, 196).

Good creational theology puts God at the center. Without the biblical account of creation, we don't know who God is, who we are, what the world is, or what life is about.

God's Purpose

- Making always includes purpose.
- As Creator, God alone has the ability and the right to tell us how to live and what the driving purpose should be for everything in our lives.
- Psalm 135:6; Psalm 115:3; Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 46:9-11; Philippians 2:13; Psalm 139:13-16; Exodus 4:11; John 9:1-3

God's Ownership

- God is the owner, and we are his resident managers. Stewardship involves the way we treat the physical environment and other people. "As his resident managers, we must take seriously our calling to represent to one another God's love, justice, compassion, mercy, protection, and provision" (201).
- We don't belong to ourselves. We can't do whatever we want. "Everything I am, that is, all that works together to make me *me* belongs to the Lord. I am to steward the various aspects of my body and personhood, recognizing that it all

belongs to him and exists for his purpose. A life well-lived is lived with the understanding that you don't belong to you" (202).

God's Authority

- "Since God made the world and owns it, he is the ultimate authority over everything. ... All human authority is ambassadorial; that is, it is designed to be a visible representation of the authority of God" (203).
- "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God" (Romans 13:1).
- Human authority should represent God's values, purposes, and character.
- Even the most powerful leaders are under authority. All human authority is answerable to God. We can rest in knowing that our Creator is the ultimate and final authority, and he is holy in every way.

Our Worship

- All of creation, from the tiniest subatomic particle to the outermost reaches of the universe, should make us drop to our knees in worship. It is meant to astound us, overwhelm us, and change us.

Our Humility

- While we certainly hold a special standing in God's creation, the doctrine of creation reminds us that we are not the center of everything.
- "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen" (Romans 11:36).

CREATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE

The doctrine of creation is not just having a position on the origin of the world. It should affect our everyday lives.

The doctrine of creation reminds us to behold the Creator.

- "The world is a sign pointing to something more glorious and more satisfying than the Creator ever intended his created world to be. ... A sign points you to a thing, but it is not that thing. Scripture after Scripture tells us that one of the primary roles of the created world is to point us to the Creator. Every glory of the physical world is meant to point you to the glory of the one who made it" (214).
- Psalm 19; Psalm 104

The doctrine of creation prompts us to look for God's purpose.

- *"What is God's purpose for _____? Asking this question reminds you of your place in the world. You are not the designer or the ultimate craftsman. You are the product of God's craftsmanship" (216).*

The doctrine of creation allows us to solve problems better.

- Biologically inspired design

The doctrine of creation provides beautifully visual teaching opportunities.

- Example: "[The man who delights in the law of the Lord] is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away" (Psalm 1:3-4).

The doctrine of creation reminds us that independence is not the goal.

- God said it was not good for Adam to be alone (Genesis 2:18). We are created for community.

The doctrine of creation requires us to admit and accept our limits.

- "All of our commitments, all of our values, all of our responsibilities, and all of our opportunities must be lived out inside of the constraints of time that our wise Creator has set for us. There is no time available outside of the time structure that God has created" (223-224).
- We must be wise with every "yes." We are to "live out the values of our Creator with a humble recognition of the limits of time the Creator knew were best for us" (224).
- "All of our limits are designed by him to draw us to come and lean on him with humility, dependence, gratitude, obedience, and worship. Our limits shrink our glory while they preach to us the unlimited glory of the majesty of the one who made us" (225).

The doctrine of creation rightly understood leads us to the cross.

- Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration