

Romans 1:20 “For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

EXPLOITING THE ENVIRONMENT

Pastor Bill Young

www.experiencetherock.com

What God thinks about the environment...

I. God _____ his creation.

A. The Bible's stance on environment: Care, Conservation & _____.

Proverbs 12:10 “A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.” NIV

Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ESV

Leviticus 25:4-5 “But in the seventh year the land is to have a sabbath of rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. 5 Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest.” NIV

Leviticus 25:11-12 The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. 12 For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields.”

Leviticus 19:23 “When you enter the land and plant any kind of fruit tree, regard its fruit as forbidden. For three years you are to consider it forbidden; it must not be eaten.” NIV

Deuteronomy 20:19 “When you lay siege to a city for a long time, fighting against it to capture it, do not destroy its trees by putting an ax to them, because you can eat their fruit. Do not cut them down. Are the trees of the field people, that you should besiege them?”

II. We should respect and _____ the environment.

A. God has _____ care of the planet to ... people.

Genesis 1:28 “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” NKJV

Genesis 2:15 “The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden as its gardener, to tend and care for it.” TLB

B. It teaches us about a _____.

Job 12:7-9 “But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?” NIV

Psalms 19:1-4 “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”

C. It affirms God's _____ for people.

Matthew 10:29-31 “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” NIV

Matthew 12:11-12 “He [Jesus] said to them, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable is a man than a sheep!” NIV

Jonah 4:10-11 ““You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight.

11 But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?” NIV

III. If we _____ creation we'll miss the Creator!

A. _____ comes from the Creator!

Romans 1:21-22 “For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.” 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.” NIV

B. _____ is polluting our ‘environment.’

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God NIV

C. _____ are the real endangered species.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord NIV

D. Jesus can _____ us up!

1 **John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” NIV

IV. Summary: We should care for the environment, but let God clean up our _____ ecosystem so we can live in paradise with Him!