

## Question Four: What Is Creation?\*

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### I. The Created Creation

- A. God created the universe out of nothing (Gen. 1:1; John 1:3; Col. 1:16).
- B. With the exception of man, God spoke everything into existence (Gen. 1:3-25).
- C. God created man and woman with his very “hands” and breathed into them the breath of life (Gen. 2:7, 22).
  - 1. God created man “in his own image” (Gen. 1:27).
  - 2. Man is the pinnacle of God’s creation and given the responsibility to rule over the rest of creation (Gen. 1:28-31).
  - 3. Because we are a special and unique part of God’s creation, humanity possesses dignity, and life should be held precious.
- D. While present day science seems to be at odds with the Biblical account of creation, when both the disciplines of science and biblical study are properly understood there will not be conflict.

### II. The Distinct but Dependent Creation

- A. God is distinct from creation. He is independent of creation and doesn’t need it to exist. Theology refers to God’s being wholly other than creation as His transcendence.
- B. Yet, God has chosen to be intimately involved in his creation. Theology refers to his close involvement with creation as His imminence.
  - 1. “In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind (Job 12:10).
  - 2. “He himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else . . . . For in him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:25 and 28 TNIV).
- C. While God is not dependent on creation, creation completely depends on Him (Col 1:17).

\* The material in this handout is a summary of chapter four, “What is Creation?” in Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know*, ed. by Elliot Grudem (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005), 43-47.

### III. The Glory-Giving Creation

- A. God created all things to give glory back to Himself.
  - 1. The creation reveals the glory of God (Ps. 19:1).
  - 2. God is worthy to receive glory, honor and power for creating and sustaining his creation (Rev. 4:11).
- B. Creation reveals God's superior power and wisdom (Jer. 10:12).
- C. Because God does not need any more glory than He already possesses, He created all things to show his greatness, to demonstrate his excellence, and to delight in his work.

### IV. The Good Creation

- A. While God can delight in His creation because it brings Him glory, He can also take pride in his creation because when He created it was "very good" (Gen. 1:31).
- B. While sin has ravaged much of creation, we should still treat the material creation as something good from God (1 Tim. 4:4).
- C. We should strive to use and develop the good creation God has placed us over in a manner that brings glory and honor back to the God who created it.

### Questions to Ponder

- How can we as part of God's creation give glory to God?
- How is God's view of all his creation different from our view of specific aspects of his creation?

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