

Doctrine Ch. 3-4

Ch. 3: Creation

Introduction: Our entire worldview is contingent on our belief about the origin of humanity. While there is room for debate over many aspects of creation, fundamental truths are essential for clear doctrine.

Discussion: What is the historic relationship between the sciences and Christianity? In what ways has this relationship evolved (hehe) over the centuries? How has it changed since 1859?

Examination:

1. What are the debatable six common Christian views of creation? p.89ff

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| i. | ii. | iii. |
| iv. | v. | vi. |

2. Which issues of creation are non-negotiable or close-handed?

Ex _____ = *out of nothing* p. 85

3. What is the historic interpretation of Genesis 1-2 by the Church? Has the Church been naïve?

4. In what ways (if any) has your view of creation changed since you first became a believer? What are the biblical strengths and weaknesses of your view?

5. What is naturalism? How can we teach our children to guard against this prevalent teaching?

6. What is the difference between macro- and micro- evolution? Are either biblical? P.98

Application:

1. Why is it important to have a clear understanding of open-handed issues related to creation?
2. How does your understanding of creation affect your life and worldview?
3. What effect can a wrong view of creation have on your understanding of life and theology?
4. What role do Genesis 1-2 play in explaining the gospel to unbelievers?

Ch. 2: Imago Dei

Introduction: Our purpose in life is rooted in the fact that we are created in the image of God.

Discussion: What does it mean to be human?

Examination:

1. How does Genesis 1 distinguish humankind from the rest of creation? p. 131
2. What is imago Dei? P. 120
3. In what way does the doctrine of image speak into modern-day gender issues?
4. What are the three common errors regarding the doctrine of image Dei?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Application:

1. What are the dominant secular worldviews regarding the nature of humanity in our culture?
 - a.
 - b.

“Far from simply providing an alternative and unbiblical explanation for the existence and diversity of life, evolution has become a complete worldview. And as a worldview evolution is forced to explain, well, just about everything. Evolution has long been attempting to explain how we got here, why one form of life bears such a resemblance to other forms of life, and why differences remain. But today it is offered as an explanation to far more.” <http://www.challies.com/articles/evolution-and-worldview>

2. How does a nonbeliever image God? How does that change the way you view the unregenerate?
3. As teachers, how does the doctrine of image compare to educational philosophies we were taught? How does imago Dei affect our dealings with children?
4. In what ways does your life image God well, and in what ways does your life reflect a false image of God? What does repentance look like in these areas?