

How is Global Warming a Christian Concern?

As stewards of God's creation it is a major part of our Christian calling to take care of our Planet Earth. In the Bible (Genesis 1:28, also 2:15, & 9:7) we are given dominion of God's creation. We are the appointed stewards of the earth and all that is in it. That means we are to care for our environment. It is all there for us to enjoy responsibly and to share with future generations. God made everything for all mankind and we need to struggle against greed, and we need to apportion it fairly.

Many of our problems come when a few people use power plays to control and claim so very much more than their fair share. Almost all of our social, economic and political problems stem directly from such sinfulness. When we become out of touch with God's plan for His creation, problems just naturally arise.

Global warming fits this scenario. There is debate about how much global warming is of man made causes and how much is natural. Human mismanagement and purely natural disasters are both caused by the mystery of sin. Noah's world flood looked like a big natural disaster yet the Bible (Genesis 6:11-13) clearly shows it was a result of human sinfulness. Everything that is ever wrong with the world is either directly or mystically the result of sin. Sin is the energy of evil. There were no disasters in paradise before original sin and there will be no disasters in the sinless Kingdom to come.

It looks like most of the global warming problem comes more or less directly from man's selfish and unwise use of the resources God has provided. People knew long ago that toxic smoke was not a good thing. We always knew that exploiting and abusing natural resources was sinful. It's only lately, however, that we have become aware and afraid of the damage we are doing by misuse of our stewardship. What only a few predicted years ago, is now becoming clearer every day. You don't have to be an alarmist to point out something must be done about global warming and other environmental problems. Our stewardship duties are overdue.

How do we fight global warming? The battle is on two fronts. It's not clear we can win on the natural front by natural means alone. It may be late in the game but as Christians we are still bound to continue good stewardship of the environment until Jesus comes in glory. This includes, good environmental practices, social, economic and political activities, and not being part of the enemy.

On the mystical front, prayer, repentance, fasting, godly lifestyles, good works, and seeking God's will, are effective weapons. Our stewardship cannot be divided between the mystical and physical. The integrated combination of the two fits God's winning strategy. Global warming is a Christian concern.