

# LESSON ESSENTIALS

## CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

### LESSON 3: THE CREATOR

Every culture has a creation story that it uses as part of its belief system. Our beliefs about our origins shape our day-to-day lives. Ensuring that you are clear on the Biblical doctrine of the Creator is imperative to ensuring that you are living in a way that is truly Christian.

How did we get here? It is a question that has been asked for millennia by every culture. How do you answer the question? Why does it matter?

Christian doctrine states that the world, everything in it, and all the people living on it were fashioned intentionally by a loving, intelligent, sovereign Creator.

By holding to the doctrine of Creation, Christians believe that they are not their own – they belong to the One who created them. We agree that there is a plan for our lives and that it is not a plan of our own designs.

Amongst whole-hearted Christians there are differing opinions about the age of the earth. Some would say that the earth was created in a literal seven day period. Others would hold to a position that the seven days mentioned in the book of Genesis were figurative, implying that the earth could be much older than some think. That is a more peripheral doctrine to discuss. The essential doctrine that we ought to be concerned with is the truth of an intelligent designer –our Sovereign Creator God.

Christian doctrine states that the world, everything in it, and all the people living on it were fashioned intentionally by a loving, intelligent, sovereign Creator. God had a plan and acted it out by creating the earth with wisdom and purpose. By holding to the doctrine of Creation, Christians believe that they are not their own – they belong to the One who created them. We agree that there is a plan for our lives, and that it is not a plan of our own designs.

When people fall into the thinking that the world was made out of some cosmic accident, or that humans evolved by random chance and survival instincts, they are rejecting that concept of a Godly plan and intention for this world. These people are trying to assign themselves the role of director and king over their own lives. They seek to make their own path, to meet their own needs, and to fight for survival in the random circumstances that ‘life’ gives them.

For the Christian, there does not need to be this striving and fighting for control. When the doctrine of a loving Creator is held to, the Christian can rest in the care and protection of God. If He has made you for a purpose, and if He is holding you and this world together, then you ought to be able to rest in the knowledge that the Lord is taking care of you in every detail.

Some would say this is a hard doctrine: some people would rather believe that they can create their own path for personal happiness, and that submitting to the Lord’s plan feels like giving too much control over to an unknown entity. However, for those who choose to read the Word, there is great comfort in being able to see the loving plan of God revealed in the Bible, and in seeing that He has given us everything we need to live out His plan in the way He intended.

In fact, when you read the Word and study this doctrine, you will come to see that it is not actually optional. Regardless of how you feel or believe, the Lord God *is* the Creator of the world. He is your Creator. He is sovereignly ordaining your days. Those who reject this doctrine are only fooling themselves thinking that they have chosen to be in control of their

own lives. The true Christian is one who willingly acknowledges and submits to the Creator, joyfully acknowledging His right to rule over his life.

The result of holding to this doctrine is that the believer can live with renewed purpose and hope. Knowing that you have been created for a purpose gives meaning to a life. Knowing that the Lord has things for you to do (Ephesians 2:10) helps you to pursue those good works, and to pursue the godly character required to live His way.

Additionally, a true understanding of this doctrine is foundational to many other doctrines including our understanding of sin and redemption, and the nature of God and man. All of these doctrines need to be rightly understood, and without a firm grasp on why it matters that God is our Creator, we will not fully understand God's story of redemption which begins in the Garden of Eden and the Creation account.

One of the most beautiful and reassuring implications of the doctrine of Creation is that it means that you are not a mistake. Your existence is not accidental nor is it incidental. The One who named the stars has a plan and a purpose for your life. He wrote you into His story for your good and for His glory. The doctrine of Creation gives meaning to life and death, joy and suffering, victories and hardship. All of it is part of His master plan and His intelligent design. Rejoice today in the fact that none of what is going on around you is out of God's control. In love, He sovereignly upholds and sustains His creation! We can rest in that knowledge and rejoice in that truth.

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## IN REVIEW

- The doctrine of Creation is foundational to a complete understanding of many other Christian doctrines and so we ought to carefully study and believe it.
- There is a freedom to be experienced when we relinquish our ideas of control and acknowledge God's rightful rule over our lives.
- God was intentional and purposeful in creation, and so we should expect that He will be intentional and purposeful in how He sustains His creation.

