

TEACHING THROUGH THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

Chapter 4: Of Creation

LESSON 007

STUDENT HANDOUT

God Made All Things

§ 4.1

For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day... Exodus 20:11

- It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days; and all very good.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Because God made all things out of nothing, He possesses absolute authority over everything. In what ways does God's total ownership challenge the way our culture views personal freedom and autonomy?
- God didn't have to create anything. How does knowing God didn't *need* creation change the way you understand your purpose and relationship with Him?
- Since God created the physical world and declared it "all very good," how should that truth shape the way we view the world?
- Why do you think our culture pushes back so strongly against the biblical account of creation?

God Made Man

§ 4.2

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26–27

- After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after his own image; having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it: and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change. Beside this law written in their hearts, they received a command, not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; which while they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What makes mankind different from the rest of creation?
- Why is it really important for us to confess that God created man male and female?
- In your own words, how did Adam's original freedom in the garden differ from our condition today, and why is that distinction crucial for understanding the brokenness of our world?
- How should the reality that every person bears God's image directly shape the way we speak to, think about, and treat difficult people in our everyday lives?
- Modern culture often swings between viewing humans as animals or as gods. How does the biblical truth that we are image bearers under God's authority provide a healthier, more secure sense of identity and purpose?

NOTES



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