

I. The Tension of Life

Creation → Fall → Redemption
(Genesis 1-2) (Genesis 3-11) (Genesis 12-Revelation 22)

A. One Story: everything matters—natural **and** supernatural; creation **and** redemption.

B. Two distinctions: some things matter more. God > nature; Redemption > creation.

C. One Story: everything still matters

1. Supernatural end requires a natural existence (we need a separate world to love God from)

2. Redemption is more than creation but it is not less.

a. Redemption aims at creation

1) Redemption restores creation (Acts 3:21; Col. 1:20; Eph. 1:10)

2) The kingdom comes (Luke 11:2; Rev. 11:15; 22:20; 1 Cor. 16:22)

b. Redemption needs creation

1) Incarnation (John 1:14)

2) Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:13-17)

3. Eschew balance for both/and (John 21:1-14)

II. Where Are We?

A. Creation is *good*.

1. Two pagan extremes

- a. Modern naturalism: matter is all that matters. We are dust in the wind.
- b. Platonic Gnosticism: matter is the matter. We are wind in the dust.

2. The Biblical view

- a. Moses (Genesis 1:3, 9, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)
- b. Paul (1 Timothy 4:1-8; Colossians 2:20-23)
- c. John (John 1:14)
- d. Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.... The third day he rose again from the dead....
I believe in...the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

B. Creation is *home*.

- 1. Our physical connection to the earth (Genesis 2:7)
- 2. Our theological connection to the earth (Genesis 3:17, 4:10-11, 6:7, 9:8-11)
- 3. God's connection to the earth: Immanuel (Revelation 21:3)
- 4. Our return to the new earth (Isaiah 65:17-25; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:3)
 - a. Purging rather than annihilating fire (2 Peter 3:10-13)

b. **New**: discontinuity. **Earth**: continuity.

1) The resurrected Christ is our one point of comparison (Luke 24:36-43)

2) Things are the same; Actions are different (2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:5; 2 Cor. 5:17)

3) Rule of thumb: if it belongs to creation it remains, if it belongs to the fall it will be removed.

Example: cultural activities (Rev. 21:24-26; Isaiah 60:3-11; 65:21)

Exception with creation: marriage (Matthew 22:30)

Exception with the fall: the serpent is still cursed (Isaiah 65:25)
and Jesus still bears his scars (John 20:27)

C. Biblical interpretation: distinguish things from actions (ontology from ethics)

1 John 2:15-17: “do not love the world”

1 Peter 2:11: “aliens and strangers in the world”

Colossians 3:1-2: “set your minds on things above, not on earthly things”

Philippians 3:20: “our citizenship is in heaven”

2 Corinthians 4:18: “fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen”