

Theology 1
God's Originating Work: Creation
Dr. Todd Stinnett
4/5/23

*The plan of God may be thought of a being like the architect's plans and drawings for a building that is to be constructed. But the plan was **not merely a scheme** in the mind of God. It has been **translated into reality** by God's actions.*

Reasons for Studying the Doctrine of Creation

1. The Bible places great significance on the doctrine of creation. – Gen. 1:1, John 1:1-3
2. The doctrine of creation has been a significant part of the church's faith & teaching.
3. The doctrine of creation has a direct effect upon our understanding of other doctrines.
4. The doctrine of creation differentiates Christianity from other religions and worldviews.
5. The doctrine of creation creates a point of dialogue between Christianity and natural science.
6. The doctrine has been a sharp point of contention within Christianity.

Elements of the Biblical Teaching on Creation

1. Creation out of nothing (*ex nihilo*) – Heb. 11:3
2. Creation was all-inclusive – John 1:3
3. The Work of the Triune God – Gen. 1:26, Col. 1:15-16
4. The Purpose: God's Glory – Psalm 19:1

The Theological Meaning of the Doctrine of Creation

1. Everything that is not God has derived its creation from Him. – John 1:3
2. The original act of divine creation is unique. God's Word knows nothing of another creation.
3. Because God is the Creator of all things, nothing is intrinsically evil. Five times in the creation narrative, God declared His creation to be good (Gen. 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25).
4. The doctrine of creation shifts responsibility upon human beings. We can't justify our evil by blaming the realm of the material.
5. The doctrine of creation also guards the impeccability of Christ. He humbled Himself by taking on human flesh, but He didn't defile Himself – He remained sinless (Heb. 4:15).
6. The doctrine of creation restrains us from asceticism – escaping all things physical in search of only that which is spiritual. (meditation, celibacy, etc.)
7. The doctrine of creation insures a connection existing among the entire created order.
8. The doctrine of creation means that all God's creatures are totally dependent upon His existence.
9. The doctrine of creation points out the inherent limitations of creaturehood.

Does the Doctrine of Creation Leave Room for Day/Age Theories of Creation or Theistic Evolution?