

Belgic Confession of Faith 12a– Creation of things on Earth

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: There is no question that the world assumes you were the product of time, chance, and matter – their trinity – and that you developed out of primordial 原初 slime. And the world likes this doctrine. They like this doctrine because it means that they don't have any obligation to submit to the true Creator of heaven and earth, and consequently, they don't have to follow the Bible's standard about what to believe and how to live.

But you, your wife, and your children did not come from a sea of primordial slime. We were created by Almighty God, in the image of God, for God. Hear God speak on this today.

Our headings are:

You are created by God

You are kept by God

You are to serve God

Our goals are: That you will **remember that God created you** through Jesus Christ, that **God equips you for service** through his Word and Spirit, and that **you then are motivated to worship and serve him**.

We believe that the Father by the Word, that is, **by His Son, has created** of nothing the heaven, the earth, and all creatures, when it seemed good to Him; giving to every creature its being, shape, form, and several offices to serve its Creator; that He also still **upholds and governs** them by His eternal providence and infinite power for the **service of** mankind, to the **end that man may serve his God**.

You are Created By God

1. God the Father, though God the Son created the world. He created things seen and unseen, great or small, and plants and animals. Col. 1:15-16. Nothing that exists was made by anyone else.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:3 - 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

2. God the Son created the world out of nothing. The word “create” is the Hebrew word “bara” which means “to make with nothing.” This is why man can never find a physical cause for the universe. Simply put, **creation points you to God**. For example, when you see something that is made you know there is a Maker. **God has the** greatest creative **unlimited power**.

Because God is your Creator – the only one with unlimited power, you must worship God. Don't waste your time looking for some other source of creation, as NASA is doing. This week they announced they would be able to find alien life in the next 10-20 years. They do this because they assume evolution is true. What a waste of money! Even false religions make more sense than evolution. **Every branch of science contradicts man's theory of evolution** 进化论. So pity and pray for those who hold to evolution. Don't let them intimidate you!

3. God the Son created all things by his powerful word.

Hebrews 11:3 - By faith we understand that the worlds were framed **by the word of God**, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Psalm 33:6,9 - By the **word of the LORD the heavens** were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. **For He spoke, and it was done**; He commanded, and it stood fast.

4. God the Son gave each one and each thing its nature and shape. God the Son did not, for instance, give souls to animals or trees, yet he made all the different species of animals and variety of small and large plants. Because of how they were made, animals don't change forms and become higher animals. Monkeys don't become people!

5. Lessons:

a. Human beings, on the other hand, are infinitely superior and complex compared to all other creatures.

When you consider the complexity of the 100 trillion connections in the brain, you will worship the Lord, your Creator. When you consider the remarkable ability of the body to heal itself, it leaves you to wonder. When you

consider how thoughts are stored and recovered, you will be in awe. When you think how one group of muscles in the heart can work for 80 years without a hint of stopping, you whisper, “This is the work of God.” No one who seriously

studies the earth thinks that evolution is cool. In fact, evolution is largely made up of freakish滑稽可笑 and rapid changes that occurred for inexplicable reasons. Now that spring is here, look outside...look closely at the tulips...and see if your mind goes to random acts to produce the beautiful flowers or to a Great Designer!

b. Don't treat non-human things as if they were sacred神圣. Don't be like the police department that charged a man with felony cruelty to animal because he killed his girlfriend's goldfish. Cook the carp! Fry the fish!

You are Kept by God

1. God supplies everyone he has made with the things he needs. He desires to do this and he has the ability to do this.

God supplies even the animals and plants with what they need. (Psalm 104 was dedicated to teach this!)

Genesis 1:29-30 And God said, "See, **I have given you every herb that yields seed** which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; **to you it shall be for food.**" Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, **I have given every green herb for food**";...

God does not (though he can and has done so) drop food down from the sky, but God provides the means by which you are supplied. God supplies plants, the animals with the rivers, rain, and sunlight. (The flood of the Nile continues to fertilize Egypt!) God keeps you alive through using your brain and your brawn that he has given you!

2. God continues to keep you to the end of the earth. God never gets weary of providing for his creation. God has the means to provide everything man needs. And to encourage you more, know that God never loses anything from his person when he provides for you.

Psalm 50:10 For **every beast of the forest is Mine**, And the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. 12 "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; **For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.**

3. Lessons.

a. So how can you address the issue of poverty, disease, and famines? It is not God who is the cause of these things. No. God made the earth and blessed it, but because of sin, God cursed the earth. The animals became wild. Man added to his troubles by not caring for the earth like he should, abusing it. Man is sometimes lazy and doesn't work as hard as he should. It is an established fact that most famines are directly man-made.

b. Be careful to remember that these things that God supplies are not gods. Do not worship them, or he might have to take them away!

You are to Serve God

1. Based on the fact that God has created you and sustains you by his almighty power, you must worship him. God did not make the world because he was lonely and needed friends, but for his glory. So you are duty-bound to live for the glory of God. This glory of God finds its greatest expression in worship.

Proverbs 16:4 - The **LORD has made all for Himself**, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

Isaiah 43:7 - Everyone who is called by My name, **Whom I have created for My glory**; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

Revelation 4:11 "**You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power**; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Psalm 148:7-11 **Praise the LORD from the earth**, You great sea creatures and all the depths; Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word; Mountains and all hills; Fruitful trees and all cedars; Beasts and all cattle; Creeping things and flying fowl; Kings of the earth and all peoples; Princes and all judges of the earth; Both young men and maidens; Old men and children.

God even commanded that animals must work on the Sabbath安息日. The Westminster Shorter Catechism says: **Man's primary purpose is to glorify God** and to enjoy him forever.

Romans 11:36- **For from him and through him and to him are all things.** To him **be the glory forever!** Amen.

How long must this glorifying of God continue? Forever! And this is logical (Romans 12:1), as God continues to provide what you need.

2. Based on the fact that God has created you, you are to work for him.

1 Corinthians 10:31- So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do it all for the glory of God.**

This is not a minor job. This job is to have dominion统管万有 over the earth. This means you have to become well equipped to do the job. Ignorant Christians is an oxymoron自相矛盾.

Psalm 8:6-8 - **You have made him to have dominion** over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, All sheep and oxen—Even the beasts of the field, The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.

3. Based on the fact that God has created you and sustains you, you must put strong confidence in him. Jeremiah spoke of God's strength and sustaining power in light of Babylonian captivity!

You can learn to have confidence in God from what Jeremiah said:

Jeremiah 32:17 'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. **There is nothing too hard for You.**

What a blessed feeling this is! You have no reason to worry. You know that he will give you all the help you need to do the work he has called you to do.

4. Lessons.

a. How does the Christian respond to those who have different views on our creation— people like those from Greenpeace? Greenpeace people believe in and promote peaceful coexistence with the world, rather than rule and dominion. They often oppose harvesting trees for wood, or eating fish or animals. **The Christian knows the truth of God and has no problem cutting down trees, or eating animals,** or in controlling animals or animal population. **You are to have dominion. You aren't to try to co-exist** with animals and nature and treat them as equals. You must kill mosquitoes and rats if they bother you and spread disease. But this means you are to care for plants and animal as they fit into God's dominion plans. You could replant trees that are cut down. You mustn't put poisons in the river or pump toxins into the air. Don't kill animals for pleasure. A good Christian environmentalist would use things wisely to promote dominion.

b. Is it selfish of God to want glory from man? Selfishness means to live for one's self at the expense of others, so selfishness is a sin for man. **Selfishness is a denying of the purpose for which you were made.** To live for yourself robs God of the honor that you must give to him by obeying him. **But God is the Creator and Sustainer.** He has no one to command him and he gives account to no one. Selfishness, then, cannot be used with reference to God. If you want to find true joy and fulfillment in your life, you must live for the glory of God. Can you handle this?

Conclusion:

God is **Creator of all things**, visible and invisible, and is the **sustainer of all things**. He never gets tired doing what he has promised. He created all things to **enable man to do his duty.** That duty is to have dominion over the earth and worship Jehovah God alone.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. How well are you fulfilling your task of worshipping regularly and knowledgeably? Do you care if your children are ready to worship him on Sundays? How well and hard **have you been working so the Lord will have dominion in the earth?** Are you working hard to make sure your children stay faithful to him and continue the dominion mandate?

2. To do these works well, you have to fill your mind and heart with the knowledge of what the Lord did for you to remake you after the fall. There is no inner strength in man, as Joel Osteen, likes to say. You will only serve the Lord when you have an intimate experience of his re-creation-salvation.

Finally, you may say: I am not a Christian so I am not duty-bound 责无旁贷 to serve God. If you say that, that would be the greatest mistake you ever made in your life. Wishing away a duty does not remove it, just like wishing you were not a parent does remove your duty as a parent! May you understand your duty today and call upon God for help! Only the Creator and Re-Creator can give you new life, life that comes through the substitutionary death of Jesus 耶稣的代死 on the cross.