

Belgic Confession of Faith 12a– Created and Preserved to Serve

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The world assumes you are 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. This is their world and life view. And in order to justify their actions they attack you if you disagree with them.

But Baby Mia did not come from a sea of primordial slime. She, like you, was created by Almighty God, in the image of God, for the glory of God. She has a purpose in life. Hear God speak on this today.

Our headings are:

You are created by God

You are preserved 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 will be 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 this beautiful world and everything and everyone in it.

Jesus created things seen and unseen, great or small, and plants and animals. 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.

Jesus even created the angels. With what did God the Son create the world?

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. Even if evolutionists go back, they start with a solid ball – their point of singularity – that always existed. How then did the Lord Jesus create the world?

3. God the Son created all things by his powerful word, saying, “Let there be,” and there was.

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.

Psalms 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.

There was no explosion by natural causes – no big bang. After all, who or what could cause a big bang if there was nothing? God the Son spoke everything into existence.

4. God the Son not only created all things, but he gave each one and each thing its nature, shape, and purpose.

God the Son did not, for instance, give souls to animals or trees, but he gave souls to humans only. **So you are infinitely superior and complex compared to other creatures.** You are not an animal. He made all the different species of animals and variety of small and large plants which never change forms. Animals, for instance, do not become higher animals. Monkeys don't become people! And each thing has its purpose.

5. God the Son even created a human conscience and the human soul with a sense of right and wrong instilled in us.

This is clear proof that God created you. Intangible things have no evolutionary cause. He gave man a purpose!

6. Creation points you to God.

When you see something that is made you know there is a Maker. **God has the** greatest creative unlimited power. Don't waste your time looking for some other sources of creation, as NASA is doing. They announced they would find alien life in the next 10-20 years. They do this because they assume evolution is true. What a waste of money!

In fact, every branch of science contradicts man's theory of evolution 进化论: Physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and astronomy. So pity and pray for those who hold to evolution. Don't let them intimidate you!

7. Seeing the wonder and greatness of God's creation, fall on your knees in humility.

When you consider the complexity of the 100 trillion connections in the brain, you will worship the Lord.

When you consider the remarkable ability of the body to heal itself, it makes you say, "What a mighty God we serve."

When you consider how thoughts are stored and recovered, you will say, "God is awesome."

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. Evolution is largely made up of freakish 滑稽可笑 and rapid changes that occurred for inexplicable reasons. But now that spring is here, look outside...look closely at the tulips...and see if your mind goes to random freakish acts to produce the beautiful flowers. Weren't they produced by a Great Designer!

8. Don't treat non-human things as if they were sacred神圣; human life is sacred.

Don't be like the police department that charged a man with felony cruelty to animal because he killed his girlfriend's goldfish. The governor of Virginia declared that it is okay to kill a baby after he is born if the doctor and mother agreed. A few weeks later he signed a bill that criminalized cruelty to animals. We are permitted to cut off animals' heads and eat them! Cook the carp! Fry the fish! Eat steaks. Don't feel bad about eating bacon. Just eat in moderation.

You are Kept by God

1. God supplied everything man needed when he made him.

He desired to do this and he had the ability to do this. God supplied even the animals and plants with what they need. (Psalm 104 was dedicated to teaching this!) Even after the fall, God provides for man.

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";...

Of course 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 will continue to keep you to the end of the earth, supplying everything you need to sustain your life.

And to encourage you more, know that God never loses anything from his person when he provides for you. He has more!

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. What about poverty, disease, and famines?

It is not God who causes these things. God made the earth and blessed it. Because of man's 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. In fact, most famines are directly man-made. God is sovereign, but man is yet responsible for his sins.

4. God not only provides food, but controls all other things so man can live for him.

He provides protection...that not a hair falls from man's head without his notice and approval.

He controls all providential circumstances. If there is an earthquake, God controls that. If a robber wants to kill you, God controls him. If the wind is trying to blow down your house, God controls it. Only what he permits happens.

5. Be very careful to remember these things that God supplies are not gods.

Do not worship them, or he might take them away!

You are to Serve God

1. Based on the fact God created you and sustains you by his almighty power, worship him.

God did not make the world because he was lonely and needed friends; he made the world 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."

God even commanded animals must not work on the Sabbath安息日.

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

You are to glorify him forever! 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 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!

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.**

Learn to have confidence in God from what Jeremiah said: What a blessed feeling this is! You have no reason to worry. You know God will give you all the help you need to do the work he has called you to do.

4. How does the Christian respond to those who have different views on our creation— like Greenpeace?

Greenpeace people believe in and promote **peaceful coexistence** with the earth rather than **rule and dominion**. They often oppose harvesting trees for wood, or eating fish or animals. **The Christian knows the truth 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.**

5. 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. **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.** And yet, living for the glory of God guarantees your blessing! Can you handle this?

Conclusion:

God is **Creator of all things**, visible and invisible, and 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 prepared 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, in spite of what Joel Osteen says. You will only serve the Lord when you have an intimate experience of his salvation and his sanctification.

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