

## THE BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTALISM...PART I

Reference: miscellaneous Scripture

Pastor Larry Webb

The environmental movement (or environmentalism) is almost impossible to define because it is so diverse. Some members are sane and sensible about this subject, but others are on the lunatic fringe. So throughout this two-part message, we are going to use the term environmentalism as a reference to the more extreme and radical elements of the environmental movement. The Cornwall Alliance group has renamed that radical part of the environmental movement "the Green Dragon." These messages represent the appropriate biblical reaction to that green monster.

One serious misunderstanding that evangelicals have about the environment is called the \_\_\_\_\_ position (i.e. the earth belongs to mankind).

The biblical rebuttal to that position is found in **Psalm 24:1** and **2** (page 491)

See also **Psalm 8:3-8** (page 483)

One fundamental fact that green dragon advocates don't understand about the environment is that man was created in "\_\_\_\_\_ meaning in "the image of God."

Reference: **Genesis 1:26** and **27**; **5:1-3** and **9:6** (page 3)

Notice three statements that describe the Christian's relationship to the earth and the environment.

**Statement One** God created the earth and the environment as a \_\_\_\_\_.

Reference: **Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 20, 25** and **31** (page 3)

Nature is not a nuisance to be ignored or a necessary evil to be tolerated but something *good* to be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Statement Two** God created man to both \_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_ the earth and its inhabitants.

Reference: **Genesis 1:26-28** (page 3)

The word "*dominion*... in the original Hebrew language meant to *reign, to rule, to govern, to bear, or to be* \_\_\_\_\_ for.

The phrase "*to subdue the earth*" means to \_\_\_\_\_ the operation of the earth and its inhabitants.

**Statement Three** To exploit the earth and the environment is basically \_\_\_\_\_ and affects other people negatively.

Reference: **I Timothy 6:10**

Notice Jesus' attitude toward wastefulness

Reference: **John 6:1-13** (page 943)

**Principle:** the environment is important because \_\_\_\_\_ are important.

The unfortunate fact is that more and more people are supporting ecological issues (even extreme ecological issues) because they see nature as a form of God.

Pantheism means that \_\_\_\_\_ it is the belief that the entire universe is another form of God.

Animism is the basic belief that natural objects have a \_\_\_\_\_