

Gods Pleasure in Creation

Genesis 1.31, Psalm 19.1-6

Overview

God sees creation as “very good”: Genesis 1.31

- God deems his creative activity at the end of each day as “good” because He is the one that is good; therefore He is able to determine what is good
- It was only after mankind was created that He deemed creation “very good”
- His declaring it “very good” indicates that He was happy in what was made...and He still is

God sees creation as “very good” because it declares His glory

- What was it about creation that caused God to take pleasure in His creative activity?
 - Psalm 19.1-4 indicates that creation speaks words: It declares His glory
- Creation is the expression of God’s joy in Himself
- Everything about it says something about the greatness of God:
 - Isaiah 43.7 indicates that it was created “for His glory”

God sees creation as “very good” because it declares His glory in the fullness of its scope:

- Creation isn’t limited to the physical things we can see
- Part of God’s creation is His implementation of the “laws of nature” which reflect His nature so as to bring about universal flourishing
 - God is a God of order and therefore He created a world that is ordered so that it would maximize the declaration of God’s glory
 - This facet in creation is another piece that God was/is very happy about
- In considering the laws of philosophy, science, beauty, morality, etc. we see that the scope of God’s creation operating in a certain manner increase our awareness of the immensity of God’s creation, which increases our awareness of God’s pleasure in creation

God sees creation as “very good” but it became very bad when sin/rebellion invaded His good world:

- Adam & Eve disobeyed God and brought a foul sound that reverberated into all of creation just like a single foul note squanders a symphony or a single grain of sand disrupts an entire watch
- The scope of the fall was equal to the scope of the beauty of creation...all parts are affected
- Sin is the disconnection from God who is life, therefore death entered into all of Gods creation:
 - Thus, the ‘wages of sin is death’ (Romans 6.23)

God sees creation as “very good” and He will have it reflect this truth both now and forevermore:

- The resurrection shows us that God is determined to redeem creation
- Jesus’ miracles pictured the redemption of creation
- The model prayer even asks that Gods will would be done on “earth as it is in heaven”
- Paul said that God in Christ was reconciling ALL things, be they in heaven or on earth (Col. 1.19-20)
- Peter says that God is going to “restore” all things (Acts 3.19-21)
- Revelation 21.1-5 we see that God will make a “new heavens and a new earth” where He will make “all things new”

- At the heart of this is His people whom He sent His Son to redeem

Questions

Discussion Starter: *How have you grown up thinking about creation? (Good/bad?) How do we find other religions and/or other worldviews thinking about creation?*

1. Look at Genesis 1. Note the “good” ascriptions at the end of each day (v. 10, 12, 18, 21, 25), then read Genesis 1.31. When God says it’s “very good,” what does this tell us about God’s view of creation?
2. Why does God take pleasure in what He has made?
3. Read Genesis 1:26-28. Does humanity play a distinct role in creation that is different than the other aspects of His creation? How do you know?
4. When considering both the physical realities that God created along with their governing “laws” are you inclined to see creation with a larger scope than you had first thought? How so?
5. If our scope of God’s world is larger, how then might we understand God’s pleasure in that world?
6. How does our sin affect our view of creation? What went wrong with creation and to what end did it go wrong?
7. Did God give up on pleasuring in His creation? How do you know?
8. What does the Gospel show us about God’s love for creation?
9. How does heaven show us that God is very happy about His very good creation?
10. How do you think about discipleship in light of God’s love for creation?
11. How is this series helping you see God as “happy” or eternally pleasing in Himself vs. only sullen/angry/disappointed/etc.?

Accountability Question: *What are some ways you have been irresponsible in joining God in His joy of creation? Be it by thought or action...how have you acted to bring in “ugliness” instead of “beauty”?*

And/Or

How have you been encouraged in seeing others enjoy creation by singing God’s praises?