

The Gospel Changes Everything

Week One

“The Creation Mandate and Current Threats to its Fulfillment”

Message Notes – Pastor Steve Treichler

September 20, 2020

For His Glory and our joy!

OUTLINE:

Introduction – A new series

Why have so many efforts to change our world proven ineffective, or even destructive? What does it mean to be a faithful presence of Christ in this world? This series will explore how the church can play a role in affecting positive change. The gospel, rather than politics or worldly power or wealth or social media or reclusivism, changes everything.

Learning to do hard thinking about hard topics. Don't be “simple”

Proverbs 1:22

The Bible in Four Parts: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration

The Creation Mandate

Genesis 1:16-27

Genesis 1:28

How the Fall impacts the Creation Mandate

Genesis 3:14-19

Spiritually (Genesis 3:14-15) – spiritual warfare

Relationally (Genesis 3:16) – with humanity

Vocationally (Genesis 3:17-19a) – subduing the earth is now very difficult

Theologically (Genesis 3:19b) – our relationship with God is now broken and we die

How the plan of Redemption impacts the Creation Mandate

2 Corinthians 5:21

2 Peter 3:10-13

Romans 13:8-10

The Great Commission is the Church's Creation Mandate now

John 20:21

Matthew 28:16-20

Gospel Proclamation → Gospel Living → Commitment to Creation Mandate → Loving Neighbor
→ Human Flourishing

The Creation Mandate finds its ultimate fulfillment in the One who was truly fruitful, Jesus Christ, and will be fully realized at the New Creation

Revelation 22:1-3

Some Current Challenges to the Creation Mandate:

Racism and Poverty
Greed and Oppression
Crime and Law Enforcement
Cancel Culture and Division

What if the “bottom line” was the Creation Mandate?

Gospel Application – *In Christ, will you take the Creation Mandate as your manifesto for living?*

QUOTES:

“As a rule, though, indifference toward the world is quite rare in the history of God’s people. The passion to engage the world, to shape it and finally change it for the better, would seem to be an enduring mark of Christians on the world in which they live. To be Christian is to be obliged to engage the world, pursuing God’s restorative purposes over all of life, individual and corporate, public and private. This is the mandate of creation.”

~ Hunter, James Davison. *To Change the World* (p. 4). Oxford University Press. Kindle Edition.

“Needless to say, the actual legacy of Christians in relation to this mandate is ambivalent, to say the least. Willful negligence of moral and spiritual obligations, the abuse of power, and corruption through self-aggrandizement result in the exploitation of other human beings and the destruction of the resources of the social and natural environment. At the same time, there is a record of extraordinary good; of service to all and in honor of God. The ambivalence is what it is. There is much for Christians to be inspired by and much of which repent.”

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The mandate has three components, each of them related. First, and often least noticed, it is given through and because of the blessing of God ([Gen. 1:28](#)). Because of the divine blessing it is appropriate to call it a covenant. Its purpose is above all to fulfill mankind’s relationship with God as it was originally intended. Second, the commandment is to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. The population was to increase and then fill the earth to discover its possibilities. Third, the mandate orders that mankind subdue the earth. The word for subduing (*kabash*) is not meant to be violent, but gentle. It is perhaps not coincidental that the three aspects of the mandate are reflected in our English word (inherited from the Medieval French) for “culture.” *Cult* referring to worship is one derivative. *Colonization* meaning to spread to other

parts of the world is another. And *coulter* means, literally, the cutting edge of the plow, or what we ordinarily call cultivation. This is the creation mandate. This is the purpose of the human race.

~ William Edgar, "The Creation Mandate", <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-creation-mandate/>

It is hard to engage with something when you don't know exactly what to call it. People who dislike it use terms like identity politics, victimhood culture, critical theory, political correctness gone mad, groupthink, grievance studies, and cultural Marxism. People who like it talk about social justice, wokeness, intersectionality, sexual minorities, postcolonialism, antifascism, and the importance of decentring, deconstructing cultural supremacy, listening to marginalised voices and checking our privilege. This second group sees itself as challenging the elites: a patriarchal, cisgender, heteronormative, married, white, male, ableist, racist, sexually abusive, hegemonic world of privilege and power, in which Harvey Weinstein can molest who he likes and the Grenfell Tower can burn down as a result of greed and corruption, and in both cases people will still blame the victims. The first group also sees itself as challenging the elites: the faddish, smug, holier-than-thou, hypocritical, affluent, graduate, vegan, snowflake, bien-pensant thought police, who want to silence disagreement, invite grown men into girls' changing rooms, and only stand up for poor people if they can prove they didn't vote Leave.

~ Andrew Wilson, Privilege, Oppression, Intersectionality and the Church (Wednesday 16 September 2020) -

https://thinktheology.co.uk/blog/article/privilege_oppression_intersectionality_and_the_church

Scripture Passages:

Proverbs 1:22

"How long will you who are simple love your simple ways?
How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?"

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:28

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 3:14-19

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

¹⁷To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Peter 3:10-13

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

Romans 13:8-10

⁸Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

John 20:21

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Revelation 22:1-3a

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be any curse.



The Gospel Changes Everything



Fall
2020
Series







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***The Creation Mandate
and Current Threats***

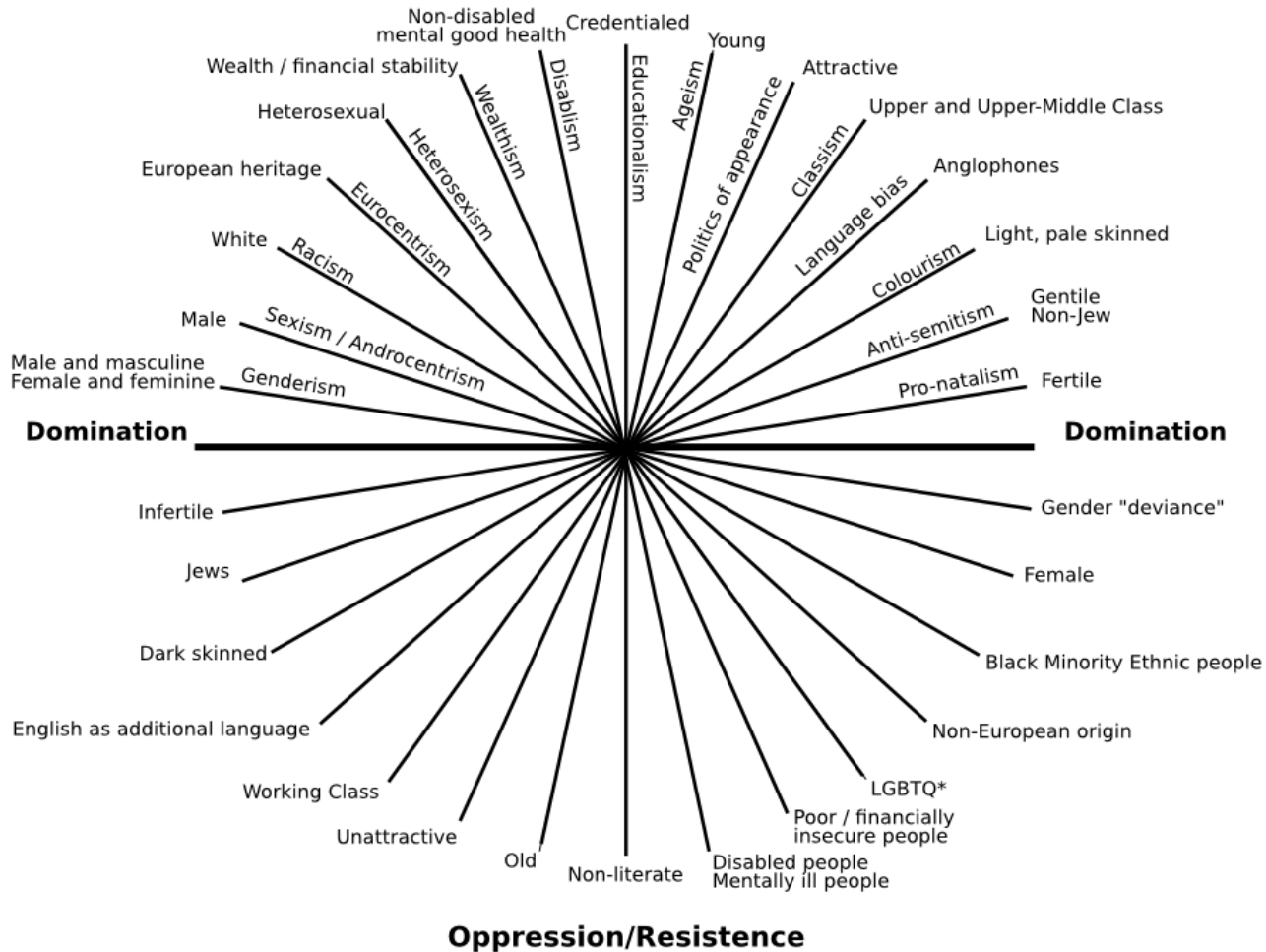
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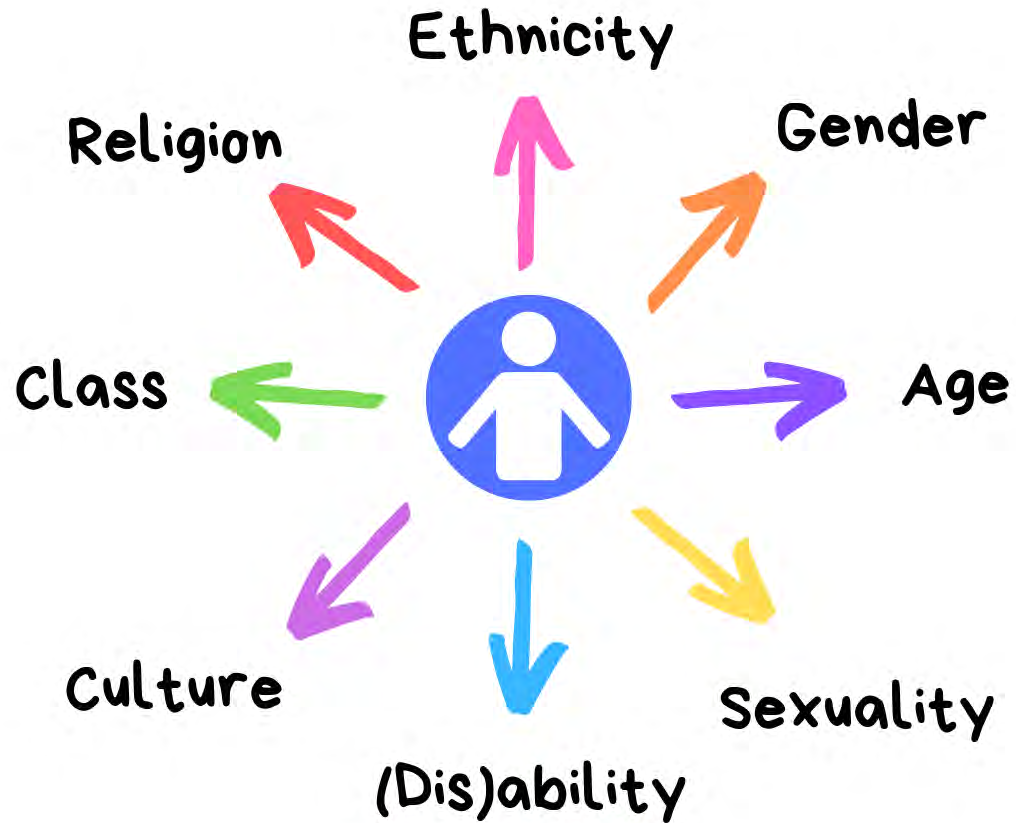
**Learning to do hard thinking about hard topics.
Don't be "simple"**

Proverbs 1:22

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and fools hate knowledge?"**

Privilege / Society norms





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The Story

Creation
Fall
Redemption
Restoration

The Creation Mandate



The Creation Mandate

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The Creation Mandate

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How the Fall impacts the Creation Mandate



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We are now in the midst of a spiritual war

Genesis 3:14-19

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How the Fall impacts the Creation Mandate

Human Relationships are now strained

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¹⁶To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

How the Fall impacts the Creation Mandate

Our labor is much more difficult

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How the Fall impacts the Creation Mandate

Our relationship with God has drastically changed

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How the plan of Redemption impacts the Creation Mandate

THE STORY OF
REDEMPTION

Jesus
Christ

How the plan of Redemption impacts the Creation Mandate

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God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Great Commission is the Church's Creation Mandate now

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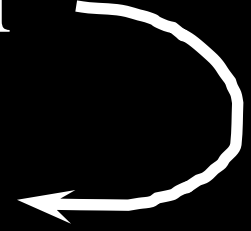
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Gospel Proclamation

Gospel Proclamation

Gospel Living



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Gospel Living

Commitment to Creation Mandate

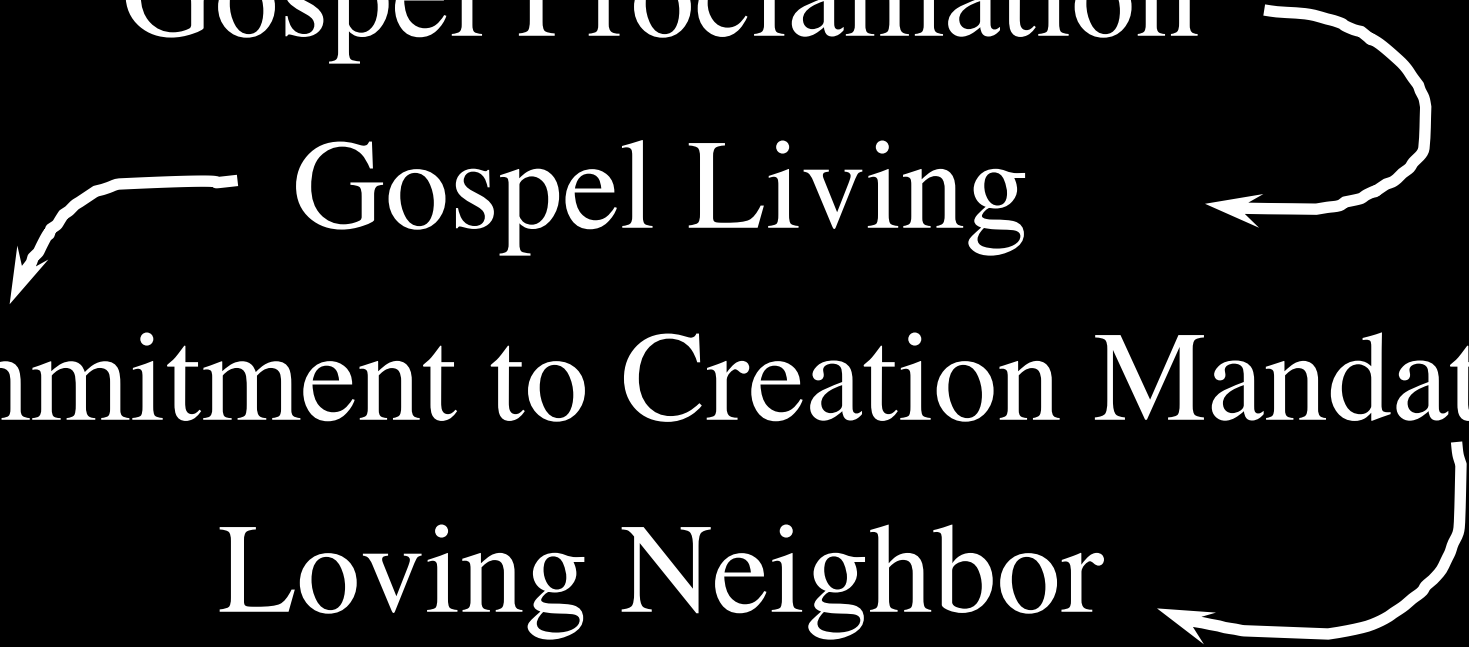


Gospel Proclamation

Gospel Living

Commitment to Creation Mandate

Loving Neighbor



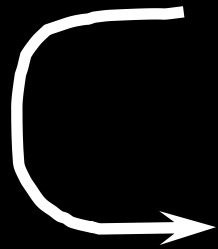
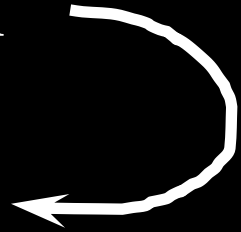
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Human Flourishing



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- Racism and Poverty
- Greed and Oppression
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- Cancel Culture and Division

Gospel Application

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What if the “Creation Mandate” were the bottom line of your life?

Gospel Application

What if the “Creation Mandate” were the
bottom line of your life?

Of our church?