

Stewards by God's Design: The Three R's of the Christian Steward

Relationships – Responsibilities - Resources



R. Scott Rodin writes in *The Steward Leader*, "In Christ we learn the truth about God, the truth about ourselves and the truth about our purpose and vocation." Christ frees us to be the person God created us to be." Rodin continues, "We are freed in our relationship with creation. We no longer need to hoard resources or amass possessions to build our own kingdom. We can live lightly in this world, caring for our environment, giving freely and joyously, holding loosely to the trappings of success and trusting God to meet our needs regardless of the circumstances." Page 67

What does Rodin mean when he says we are able to "live lightly in this world"?

"God wants to be praised for nourishing and cherishing, for God cherishes all creatures. God is not only the Creator but is also the Sustainer and Nourisher." Martin Luther (LW 5:197)

How do we know that God cherishes His world?

My Relationship with Creation

God created us as creatures who are to relate to the rest of His creation. Robert Kolb writes in *The Christian Faith*, "The biblical doctrine of creation describes the relationships God established as He fashioned his creation...He established the relationship of human creatures to the rest of creation, a relationship of 'dominion,' that is, God-style support and service, love, care, and concern (Genesis 1:26-30)." Page 49

What do the following passages say about creation?

- Genesis 1:1
- Genesis 1:31
- Psalm 24:1

What do the following passages say about our relationship to creation?

- Genesis 1:28
- Genesis 2:8
- Genesis 2:15
- Genesis 2:16-17

How did sin impact the relationship human beings have to creation?

- Genesis 3:17-19
- Romans 8:20-22
- Job 12:7-10

How are we as stewards supposed to respond to His creation?

- Psalm 104:24, 33
- Romans 1:20

Kolb continues, "We are creatures of the breath of God. We stand in a symbiotic relationship with the rest of creation...Nevertheless God did not issue a license for human exploitation of nature. The whole created order belongs to God. Nature is designed to protect itself against human abuse. God stands in judgement over human misuse of His world and its resources...The breath of God points to the vertical relationship that human creatures are designed to have with their Maker. The dust of the earth points to the horizontal relationships that human creatures have with the rest of creation. What makes us right and human in relationship to God is our response of love and trust to the gift of life he gives without merit or worthiness in us, apart from any deeds we perform. What makes us right and human in relationship to the rest of creation is our proper performance of God's commands, our proper tilling of its ground, our proper care for its creatures." Page 53

- What is a symbiotic relationship with the rest of creation?
- How do we as humans exploit nature?
- How does God's ownership of all creation impact our stewardship?
- What makes us right and human in our relationship to God? To creation?
- How can we be better stewards of God's creation?