CREATION IS IMPORTANT

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If we love and serve the God of creation, then respecting and caring for his world should not be an optional extra.
Category: Observations

There are some things about sections of evangelical sub-culture that I just don't understand. One of these, is the seeming lack of interest in God's creation.

We are living through a period of unprecedented species loss. Animals and plants are disappearing from our planet at an alarming rate and once gone, we won't get them back. One way to consider this loss of species is to be concerned about what it portends for life on earth in general. Our ecosystems are linked and whether we recognise it or not, we rely on scores of invertebrates to pollinate the crops that we eat. We are not immune to the loss of even seemingly insignificant species. Who knows, that plant suddenly became extinct before botanists even identified it, might have been a source of a new antibiotic?

But as Christians, our concern for species loss should go beyond this merely mechanical approach. If we believe that God created our world in all its richness and diversity, then losing something that he made and which he called good, should bother us deeply. If God called it good, then it should matter to us. However, it often seems to be those Christians who hold most strongly to the notion of a literal six day creation story, who are the least concerned about the loss of species and habitat today. To be honest, I don't get it.

Another issue which comes to mind is the question of climate change. Perhaps it is because we in the western world have been spared from its worst effects that means that we feel we can ignore it or even be sceptical about its existence. However, for people in marginalised parts of the world, climate change is real and it is having an effect on their lives today. Most of Sue's work focusses on people groups in Southern Madagascar, where there is a major famine. These are real people and they are going very hungry. They don't have the luxury of ignoring climate change - nor should we!

A few years ago, I wrote this consideration of our environmental crisis from a biblical point of view.

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