9 Oct 2022

**Christ and Culture 6** | *Creation Care*

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| **Genesis 1:28****28**God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”**Colossians 1:15-20****15**The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16**For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. **17**He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18**And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.**19**For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,**20**and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**Jonah 4****1** But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. **2**He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. **3**Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”**4**But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”**5**Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. **6**Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-22575a)] and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. **7**But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered.**8**When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”**9**But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”**10**But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. **11**And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?” |

# QUESTIONS

1. **Opening Sharing Qn.** Why is it that Christians seem disinterested about creation care or climate crisis?
2. Bishop N. T. Wright wrote about the western dualism that seems to dominate Christian thinking - what is spiritual is good and what is material is bad (to put it simply). How has that affected our theology (of the end times) and hence our perspectives and actions in the world we live in?
3. How can we live out the dual role of being God’s stewards - protector and caretaker - today?
4. Jonah 4 ends **without** a response from Jonah to God’s question? How will you respond to God’s question in Jonah 4:11?
5. **Key Application Qn.** What can the church community do more in playing a part in tending God’s garden?