

Theology Simply Explained — WSC9 “Creation, the Gospel, and God Himself”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 9—especially explaining how God’s method and timing of creation are designed to give Him all glory, especially in Christ and His church.

Q9. What is the work of creation? *The work of creation is God’s making all things of nothing, by the Word of His power, in the space of six days, and all very good.*

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Catechism question. This week is number nine. What is the work of creation? The answer is the work of creation is god's making all things of nothing by the word of his power. And the space of six days. And all very good. Several important components in this catechism, question first, God made all things.

There is nothing that he didn't make. And therefore, because all things are from him. And therefore also through him, they are to him. To him, be the glory. Everything exists for his glory. Everything tells of his glory. The lord has made. The knowledge of him. Evident in us. Says Romans chapter 1.

Quite obviously, the reason we are Self-aware self-reflective. Relational worshiping. Um, Rational creatures. Is because we are made in his image. There are something that there are several things that he has putting us, that do not have any correspondence to anything in the rest of the creatures. And so, romans one tells us that Uh, he has made, he has put the knowledge of himself in us.

And the, it also tells us that he has put Evidence. Even of his divine nature. And the things that are made. Everything that is created. Has this in common. It is not the creator. Uh, it was only those who are given over to A debased mind. Who look around at the things that are made and say, aha, these made themselves That is a judgment that passes upon, man for Refusing to glorify god and give him.

Thanks to be given over to such stupidity. And we now live An entire world by and large. Um, That is under that stupidity. And so does necessary that we see that god made all things. They all attest to the fact that he is god. And his making all things reminds us.

That all things exist for his glory. He made all things. Out of nothing. This. This two attests to The difference between the creator and the creature. The creature is unable to make. Anything. Out of nothing. Cannot will anything into existence. Creature. I can do things with what god has made.

Man is particularly creative. And is able even to do things now. Like, convert matter into energy. But still. We can't make anything. Out of nothing. Got alone, makes Things out of nothing and he made all things out of nothing. It was also important to see. The mechanism by which he chose to make.

The word of his power. As the psalm says, he spoke and it came to be. He commanded And it stood fast. This isn't just important for the way. That it displays the greatness of his power. And the power of his speech.

But god, created speech itself as a reflection. Of how he communicates himself, especially by the second person. Of the godhead. This, he teaches us when the spirit carrying along john, the evangelist. He says in the beginning was the word. Just as genesis begins in the beginning. God, And so we recognize that what is first, is the second person of the godhead not speech.

God creates by speaking. To demonstrate that. In his opera ad extra of creation in his Action outside of himself. Of creation. Uh, the triune god. Is one god doing one work. And especially through. The sun. And so you have the beginning. Of the gospel of john. You have the beginning.

Of colossians. You have the beginning of Hebrews. All of which identify the lord jesus in particular. As the creator. That it was, he by whom god created the word by whom god created. That is also the one in whom god became a man, the word became flesh. To redeem us.

And by him, he rules all things. Uh, forever. And ever. That the lord jesus. Has then this Not just mediatorial priesthood in which he has attended for our sins. But immediatorial, kingship So that in the god, man. The lord god will, especially rule. Um, Forever and ever. And so, when it says, by the word of his power, That is not speaking, only of the fact, That genesis 1 says, and god said, That is taking the, the catechism answer is taking the totality.

Of what the bible has revealed about god, revealed about the triune god revealed about the god, man. Now in the incarnation of the sun. And how all of those things relate to the creation. So that we would know especially that it is our creator. Who is our Redeemer? So the work of creation has got to making all things of nothing.

By the word of his power. In the space. Of six days. God. Creating in such a way that demonstrates. That he has created in order to be worshiped. And not just to be worshiped, but to be enjoyed. So that in the space and the quantity of time that he Decides to take in his creation.

He highlights not so much the six days. On which he created. But the seventh day on which he rested for our sakes. The sabbath has made for man. So that we would know. That all things exist for the glory of god but especially that we exist for the glory of god and that the great way that god has given us to glorify him is not even the work that he gives us to do.

On the other six days but rather the rest that he gives us to find in himself. That although there are six creation days, there is one creator day. And so he doesn't just establish a rhythm for our lives, as As helpful as that is, and Remember France, trying to go to a 10-day work week because they could become more efficient and Failing miserably.

But it doesn't just god establishing. The rhythm for our lives. It's god, demonstrating himself as the reason. For our lives. So that we not only worship him. By enjoying him on the seventh day. But even then, the other six, The mindset with which we are to live. The purpose of our existence is defined By the sabbath day.

By the seventh day. Just as the purpose of all that he did on the other six days. Is really shown forth on the seventh day. The creator day. In which he is glorified. And then of course, all very good. That god created. And in. Everything he made was good as he went along.

There was not one day that ended where it was not good. There is as it were a Temporary tension. Of. Uh, not yet good. When man who has made in god's image and must be male and female and be in order to be in the image of god to live in covenant and fellowship.

Um god says of man, who is alone? Not good? Because there are no creatures capable of being in covenant. With man, except man except woman. Um, and

there are no creatures, really capable of being in fellowship with man, Except woman. And so, in order that we might image god in the greatest way, That we would be a covenanting fellowshiping creature.

Who yes. We covenant with god and we fellowship with god and this is The greatest gift that god has bestowed upon us to be in covenant with him and fellowship with him. Uh, yet that Um, Infinitely. Uh, disparate Uh, different, the infinite difference between us and god. Uh, makes that not so much.

An imaging as the exact Bone of my bone flesh of my flesh. Uh, between the man and the woman. And so, he makes Uh man to be in his image in a glorious and full way.

In order that The. Creation of the man would be good and having created the man good as the crown of the rest of creation, the whole thing would be very good. So that there is nothing bad. So, there is no. Hurting or destroying. You remember in isaiah when god is Prophesying the new creation that will come.

Uh, with the consummation of christ's work. He says, they shall not hurt or destroy. And all my holy mountain. Um, none of that was in the creation until man sent It's not just that there would not be. Uh, billions of years of struggle and death. Uh, but it's also that there would not be Billions of years of a creation with no covenant and creatures in it.

Millions of years of a creation with no fellowship in it. Even the holy angels, do not have marriage and fellowship and covenant among them the way that we have been given among us So that When the lord jesus talks about marriage being Uh, obsoleted in the kingdom. It's not because we're downgraded to become like angels, who don't covenant at all, is because we're upgraded, as members of his bride.

So that the great covenant and fellowship now, Is that jesus has been made like us in every way, except without sin. And our covenanting and fellowshiping aspect of our being made in the image of god, is then fulfilled in the last day. By the brides covenant with christ and fellowship within, which will have been perfected.

Because all of our sin will have been removed, And so this, especially Um, You should remember, when you run into even reformed people. He kind of scowl and shrink their noses and curl their lip when they say. Young earth creationist

A young earth creationist is simply someone who takes god, as word. And if you are not one of those, then you miss How this covenantal, fellowshiping Aspect of. The character of god. There's something that he crowned creation with. And so, yes. All very good in the space of six days.

So that there was not these billions and billions of years. Of a covenanting less fellowshiping less. Um, Struggle and death hurting and destroying miserably trying to Uh, genetically ascend. Uh, for uh, just in order to survive. No. Long before any of that nonsense was invented. By the creature who brought sin into the world, The.

Assembly recognized that the main thing or one of the great things about the work of creation, Is that it was all very good. It was an expression of the goodness of god. And the man himself created, a knowledge righteousness and holiness which will get to in another Catechism question.

Was the climax. Of that work of creation. So, a lot of things packed into So, a lot of things packed into that one sentence. What is the work of creation? The work of creation is god's making all things of nothing by the word of his power in the space of six days.

And all very good.