

Blueprints for Belief

Laying the Theological Foundations for Constructing Your Faith

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1. It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning, to create or make of nothing the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good.
2. After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness after His own image, having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it; and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change. Besides this law written in their hearts, they received a command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; which while they kept were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.

Summary of Doctrine

- God created everything out of nothing for His own glory.
- He did it in the space of six days.
- God created humans (male and female) in His own image.
- This is a special designation that highlights the dignity of humanity, our moral responsibility, and our intended purpose and nature.

Scripture References

- Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
- John 1:1–3 – “All things were made through him...”
- Hebrews 11:3 – “The universe was created by the word of God...”
- Colossians 1:16 – “For by him all things were created...”
- Exodus 20:11 – “For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth...”
- Genesis 1:26–27 – “Let us make man in our image... male and female he created them.”
- Genesis 2:7 – “God formed the man of dust from the ground... breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.”
- Ecclesiastes 12:7 – “The spirit returns to God who gave it.”
- Ephesians 4:24 – “Created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Disagreements Among Christians

Length and Nature of the Creation Days

- Literal 6-Day Creation (Young Earth Creationism) – Affirms six 24-hour days, with the earth approximately 6,000–10,000 years old. Supported by many Reformed, fundamentalist, and evangelical groups.
- Day-Age View (Old Earth Creationism) – The “days” are seen as long epochs or ages.
- Framework Hypothesis – Days are a literary framework, not chronological.
- Analogical Day View – Days are “God’s workdays,” analogous to human days but not identical in length.

Human Origin

- Special Creation of Adam and Eve – Classic Christian view: God directly formed the first humans.
- Theistic Evolution – Some believe God used evolutionary processes to bring about humanity, but still affirm a special spiritual creation of the soul.

The PCA General Assembly has a study paper acknowledging that there are several acceptable views on the days of creation, but the following affirmations are necessary:

- The historicity of Adam and Eve.
- That creation was a supernatural act of God.
- That God created ex nihilo (out of nothing).
- The goodness and purposefulness of creation.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean that God created the world “out of nothing” and declared it “very good”?
2. Why do Christians disagree about the length and nature of the “six days” of creation?
3. How does the doctrine of creation shape our understanding of human dignity and purpose?