

GAP 24: CARING FOR CREATION AND THE VULNERABLE

Driving Question for Collaborative Design

How might Christians in the church, parachurch, and workplace collaborate to reach and disciple others in the practice of caring for creation and the vulnerable as integral to our gospel witness?

Description

Creation care is a central issue for our contemporary world. While the issues are complex, there is no doubt that changes in climate and loss of biodiversity affect both creation itself and its role in pointing to God's glory (Romans 1:20), and also impact vulnerable people to the greatest extent. To proclaim the gospel that says 'Jesus is Lord' is to proclaim the gospel that includes the earth, since Christ's Lordship is over all creation, and Jesus died to save the whole world. Creation care is, therefore, not just a pressing context for mission, just like caring for the vulnerable is not just a context for mission. Caring for creation and the vulnerable is integral to the content of the Great Commission, to be expressed in all disciple-making efforts wherever we work and serve.

With motivation to obey the biblical command to care for and guard creation, as well as our desire to care for our most vulnerable neighbors, this conversation prayerfully explores:

Collaboration Questions

- How can the church grasp the gospel imperative of guarding God's planet which Christ came to save?
- How can missions and Christians in the workplace increase their vision to include God's missional purposes in sustaining and renewing all of creation?
- How can we use technology, science and business to serve a biblical view of God's world and thus avoid destroying God's good gift of creation, depleting the diversity of creatures God made very good, harming the poor and vulnerable, and leaving a barren world for future generations?
- How can local churches, missions and Christians in business model the biblical vision of 'shalom' between God, humanity and creation, and obey Jesus' prayer for God's kingdom to come here on earth, as it is in heaven?
- How can Christians in the church/parachurch/workplace collaborate across spheres to practice earth-keeping and sustainable practices in business and mission as integral to our witness and disciple-making?
- How can the church and workplace/social venture initiatives reach, disciple, and wisely care for vulnerable victims of our abuse of God's creation?

Sub-Topics

- Creation care
- Sustainable and simpler lifestyles
- Biodiversity conservation
- Climate science and technology
- Reaching and serving the poor and those on the margins of society
- Economic models that honor God, preserve God's creation, and care for the vulnerable
- Workplace sustainability in leadership, resource use, waste disposal and innovation
- Children-at-risk

Preparation before Seoul 2024

Please read these sections of the State of the Great Commission Report:

- Introduction from the Theology Working Group
- Part I, on the State of the Great Commission globally, captured by text and graphics
- Part II, with the articles on 'Creation Care' and 'Poverty and Access Gaps', also drawing on 'Opportunities for the Disabled' and 'Rising Debt Ratios'
- Part III for your particular region in which you primarily work or serve in church or parachurch