**Genesis 1**

Introduction

I. Christians today are in danger of losing a Christian worldview

A. Christian’s thinking is becoming compartmentalized

Barna: "Americans are increasingly comfortable picking and choosing what they deem to be helpful and accurate theological views and have become comfortable discarding the rest of the teachings in the Bible. One consequence is that Americans are embracing a contradictory body of beliefs."

B. Christian’s living has become compartmentalized

Christian’s church and religious lives are cut off from their actual lives of work, money, politics, family, entertainment, etc.

II. Our goal is to think Christianly about everything

III. Today we look at the created order: What is it and how should we live within it?

The Passage

I. God created it (v. 1)

A. The creation is not eternal, and it’s not God; it’s just stuff God made

B. Christianity is a monotheistic religion that holds that God is utterly distinct from the rest of creation (even though he is actively involved in it)

C. Other worldviews see a different relationship between God and creation

a. Pantheism: the universe is God (an impersonal God)

b. Polytheism: there are many gods within and beyond the universe

c. Atheism: there is only the universe; there is no God

D. Monotheism has huge implications for our worship and devotion

a. God alone is worthy of our worship, devotion, and ultimate trust

b. The first 2 of the 10 commandments are about keeping the distinction between the creator and the creation very distinct

c. In Romans 1:25, our problems started when we exchanged worship of the creator for worship of the creation

II. God created it good (v. 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)

A. 7 times the writer says “good”

B. God is like an artist, making something than stepping back and observing it and acknowledging and appreciating its goodness

C. So while we don’t worship the creation, we can enjoy it and affirm that it is fundamentally good (even though sin has now entered the world and distorted things, we can still affirm the fundamental goodness of what God created)

D. Other worldviews see the material universe differently

1. The ancient Greeks thought of the material, physical universe as inherently inferior and evil when compared to the world of pure spirit and reason. They saw humanity as souls trapped in bodies. The goal for them was to escape the physical world of the senses and enter a disembodied spiritual world of timeless, changeless perfection.

2. This way of thinking has crept into many Christians’ worldview.

E. A biblical worldview, rather, affirms the goodness of God’s plan to create a physical, material reality. The problem is not our physicality, the problem is our sin. The goal in life is not to reject our physicality but to “present our bodies as living sacrifices to God” (Ro 12:1) and worship him in this physical universe. God’s future is physical as he will create a “new heavens and a new earth” (Rev 21:1) and we will receive resurrection bodies.

III. Implications for our lives

A. Our relationship with creation

1. God’s physical creation can be a source of deep enjoyment for us

a. We can look AT the creation and experience its goodness (it’s beauty, design, detail, etc.) of creation itself

b. We can look TROUGH the creation and see the hand of a good Creator and learn about him through his creation. (see Romans 1:20)

c. As we enjoy creation, we can also enter into the joy God has in his creation

2. We have a responsibility to creation: to care for it well

a. Since it’s God’s good handiwork, we ought to have a respect and care for it (like any great work of art)

b. At the same time, only human beings are created in God’s image, so there is a big difference in value between a human and the rest of creation

c. A Christian worldview, therefore, cares deeply for God’s creation but puts that care in proper perspective

B. Our relationship with God

1. From beginning God intended us to have a relationship with him in the context of these physical bodies and this physical world.

2. We tend to separate/compartmentalize our spiritual lives from our ordinary human lives, but our ordinary human lives are the very contexts where God meets us and where we worship him (work, family, community, food, etc.)

**Discussion Questions**

1. What did you think of the idea mentioned on Sunday that American Christians today are in danger of losing a Christian worldview? What does that mean, and do you see evidence of that in today’s church?

2. Share a specific time when God used his creation to speak you or reveal himself in some way.

3. On Sunday we discussed the biblical affirmation that the physical creation is good. The ancient Greeks viewed the material universe as fundamentally evil and as something to ultimately escape. How specifically have you seen that Greek worldview play out in the church or even in your own life?

4. Some comments were made on Sunday regarding a proper care for the creation that flows out of a biblical worldview. How do you respond to those comments and what issues does that raise for you?