

Question 12. *What is the work of creation?*

Answer. *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.*

I. “The work of creation is God’s making all things of nothing...”

A. The first work we see God do in the Bible is the work of creation. Before God can do the work of providence, there must be a Creation for Him to rule over.

1. **Genesis 1:1-4a (LSB):** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good...*

B. God’s creation is not like man's. We cannot create things out of nothing (*ex nihilo*), but God can. God’s creative power and creative process are not contingent upon outside sources or outside influences. This is why God rightly bears the title Creator.

1. **Isaiah 40:28 (LSB):** *Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, Yahweh, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not become weary or tired. His understanding is unsearchable.*

II. “By the Word of His power...”

A. For God to be Creator means that He is all-powerful. God does not exercise His work through the muscles of the arms or through the precision of the hands. God is an eternal spirit without body or parts, so He does His glorious work of creation “by the Word of His power.”

1. **Psalm 33:6-9 (LSB):** *By the word of Yahweh the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear Yahweh; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 For He spoke, and it was; He commanded, and it stood.*

B. It is fundamental to the Christian faith to affirm that God is the sole Creator of all things and that He accomplished such a work “by the word of His power.” Though all mankind is endowed with a natural knowledge of God as their Creator (see *Question & Answer 3*), it is a matter of faith to hold the position that God created everything through speaking.

1. **Hebrews 11:3 (LSB):** *By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*

a) This knowledge of *how* God created all things is revealed through special revelation (the Holy Scriptures).

III. “In the space of six days...”

A. According to the confessional standards of Baptists, as seen here in the Baptist Catechism and the 2nd London Confession of Faith, Baptists have historically believed in a literal six-day creation.

1. **2LCF, Article IV. Paragraph 1:** *“In the beginning it pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, to create or make the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good.”*

a) One who holds to a day-age theory of creation could not affirm the 2LCF or the Baptist Catechism. This kind of interpretation of Genesis 1 has no place in the standards of Baptist confessionalism.

B. Though the days are interpreted as literal days, it does not mean that they do not contain any spiritual significance or typological elements.²⁰

IV. “And all very good.”

A. God is a being of pure “goodness” (see *Question & Answer 7*). So, God, out of the overflow of His goodness and love, creates a good creation. There is no such idea from the Scriptures that God created anything less than pure goodness. God cannot create anything that is not good, for that work would be contrary to His very nature.

1. **Deuteronomy 32:3-4 (LSB):** *For I proclaim the name of Yahweh; ascribe greatness to our God! 4 The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.*

B. When we examine the creation account closely, we see that there are 6 “good” statements in Genesis 1. We see them in 1:4, 1:10, 1:12, 1:18, 1:21, and 1:25. There is 1 “very good” statement in Genesis 1, and it is when God creates Adam and Eve.²¹ God, who cannot lie, declares that His creation is “very good.”

1. **Genesis 1:31 (LSB):** *And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

²⁰ For a convincing treatment on this subject, please see David Schrock’s essay in *Christ Over All*, 5.22 “*On the Third Day: Seeing Resurrection from Beginning to End*” <https://christoverall.com/podcasts/5-22-david-schrock-reading-on-the-third-day-seeing-resurrection-from-beginning-to-end/>

²¹ As David Schrock (see above) observes, it is interesting that there is a omission of a “good” statement on Day 2, and a double “good” statement on Day 3, which may signify that from the very beginning God was pointing to a Day 2 of silence (Jesus in the tomb) and a doubly “good” day of seed multiplying to life on Day 3 (Jesus’ resurrection from the dead).

a) When God creates mankind, His image bearers, it then results in the culmination of His creation being “very good.” Mankind is rightly often referred to as the crown jewel of God’s creation, and so this sets up nicely for our next exchange in the catechism (see *Question & Answer 13*).

(1) **Psalm 8:3-8 (LSB):** *When I see Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have established; 4 what is man that You remember him, and the son of man that You care for him? 5 Yet You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You crown him with glory and majesty! 6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, 7 all sheep and oxen, and also the animals of the field, 8 the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, whatever passes through the paths of the seas.*

V. Application

- A. We can rest in the truth that God is indeed good, and all of His creation was also good. It is helpful to our souls to remember that in the beginning of mankind's existence, there was goodness. This means that part of the Christian hope is that we believe God will create again and make all things new (Rev. 21:5). If God made things *very good* the first time, we can take it to the bank that He will make it *very good* the last time.
- B. We can also find great comfort in the fact that, in Christ, we are “new creations” (2 Cor. 5:17). This means that there is real change in Jesus and new life in His name.
1. **Romans 8:18 (LSB):** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

C. Reflection Questions

1. **Question 1.** *“Do you remember to address God as Creator?”*
2. **Question 2.** *“Are you thanking God for His creation in your prayers?”*
3. **Question 3.** *“How does the promise of the new creation encourage you in hard times?”*

VI. Repeat / Sing Question & Answer 8 – 12

A. **Question 8.** *Are there more gods than one?*

1. **Answer.** *There is but one only, the living and true God.*

B. **Question 9.** *How many persons are there in the Godhead?*

1. **Answer.** *There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.*

C. **Question 10.** *What are the decrees of God?*

1. **Answer.** *The decrees of God are His eternal purpose, according to the counsel of His will, whereby for His own glory, He hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.*

D. **Question 11.** *How doth God execute His decrees?*

1. **Answer.** *God executeth His decrees in the works of creation and providence.*

E. **Question 12.** *What is the work of creation?*

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