

## Our Fragile Home

The recent Cop26 summit has made us all even more aware that our home, Planet Earth, is in crisis like never before and there is an urgent need for action. We don't need to be members of Extinction Rebellion or other activist groups to suffer to some extent from 'eco-anxiety' — a chronic fear of environmental doom. There are those who argue that Christians' primary responsibility should be saving souls, not seals, but thankfully there is no need to choose — we are called to do both. So, what has our environment got to do with Christianity? Everything! God made it. And as evangelist Rob Frost said, *'When Christians take the earth seriously, people take the gospel seriously.'*

*'For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.'* (Colossians 1)

So if all things were created through Him and for Him, then it is incumbent upon us to do what God commanded in Genesis 2, right at the beginning of time when He put man in a garden to work and take care of it. Whether or not one believes the creation story is not really the point; what matters is that God made all that exists, saw it was good, and blessed human beings, entrusting them with its care.

So as Christians, our position is this: whether or not we agree with the rulers or authorities mentioned above, we are commanded to pray for them, that the geopolitical decisions needed may be made wisely. We need to say sorry for our part in the greed that says it's OK to take what we want at the expense of the poorest people on earth. Thankfully, when my children were teenagers they never did trash the home provided for them, but that is in effect what we — and especially the privileged, entitled small percentage of which I count myself a member — have done to God's amazing handiwork.

However, wringing our hands, blaming politicians and feeling anxious is not the most positive response. As the author Max Lucado points out, *"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something"*. Space doesn't permit me to give examples, but signing up to the newsletter of the excellent local group 2G3S (Green Groups Shelfords Stapleford Sawston) will help you find many ideas. Reducing lawnmowing is a great place to start....

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