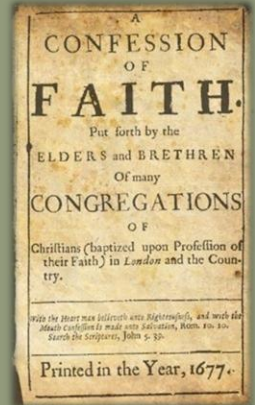


SECOND LONDON BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH



CHAPTER 4 OF CREATION



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.

2LCF; 4.1

2

Why Were All Things Created?

- “The manifestation of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness”
- This was not out of necessity
- “God, having all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of himself, is alone in and unto himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creature which he hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting his own glory in, by, unto, and upon them (2LCF 2.2)”

3



MAN & WOMAN

4

“

After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, rendering them fit unto that life to God for which they were created; being made after the image of God, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness; 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 to change.

2LCF;4.2

5

Set Apart from Creation

- “After God had made all other creatures...”
 - Man is different from the animals
- “With reasonable and immortal souls.”
 - Made in the image of God (imago Dei)

6

Why Was Man Created?

- “...Fit unto that life to God in which they were created...”
 - Isaiah 43:7 (ESV) “everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”
- God has created man to reflect His glory, and He made man fit for the task
- Through Jesus, God fully displays is glory in mankind
 - Hebrews 1:2–3 (ESV) - ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

7

The Image of God

- “...being made after the image of God, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness...”
 - Colossians 3:10 (ESV) - and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.
 - Ephesians 4:24 (ESV) - and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
- Adam was not a neutral creature, but was made in righteousness and holiness

8

Fit for God

- "...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 to change."
- Natural Law (Moral Law) – the law written in their heart, knowing the difference between right and wrong
- They were *able* to keep God's Law perfectly and freely, but they could also transgress the law freely

9



POSITIVE LAW

10

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Besides the law written in their hearts, they received a command not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which whilst they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.

11

Law and Gospel

- Many Christian today want us to be rid of the Law and never mention it again
- The Law of God is good and good for us
 - It shows us how to obey God
 - It reveals to us our inability to obey God and condemns
 - It shows us that we need something else to be righteous
 - It points us to Jesus
- Through the Gospel we are saved and made righteous
 - The Gospel is the answer to the law's accusations
 - The Gospel is our reliance on God

12

Law and Gospel

- We need a proper understanding of Law and Gospel
- Law with no Gospel leads to legalism
- The Gospel without the Law leads to Antinomianism
 - *Antinomianism* – The belief that in Christ we have no obligation to the laws of God
- If we need both Law and Gospel, does that mean we are under every law of God ever written?

13

Natural Law and Positive Law

- *Natural Law* (Moral Law) – The laws of God established in the nature of Creation (Romans 2:14)
- *Positive Law* – Laws obligated to man by special decree of God
 - Genesis 2:16–17 (ESV) – And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

14