THE EQUIP INSTITUTE Theme: Christian Engagement Topic: Biblical Worldview: Creation 4th Semester / Spring 2025	
4 Semester / Spring 2025	
Introduction	
The Equip Institute exists to equip members of Taylors First Baptist Church to think rightly about God and His Word for the sake of living rightly before God in His world. The topic this week is the first component of a biblical worldview: creation.	
As lower than Count	
An Important Caveat	
Biblical worldview thinking is similar to theological reflection, but they aren't exactly the same thing. <b>Biblical theology</b> either looks at theological themes in certain sections of Scripture or traces theological themes across	
the storyline of Scripture. <b>Systematic theology</b> takes a theological topic and examines everything Scripture says	
about that topic.	
The purpose of biblical worldview thinking is to reflect on the implications of a theme so that you can think	
Christianly about life's ultimate questions, debatable ethical matters, the questions that religious skeptics might ask, the baseline assumptions of rival worldviews, etc.	
Biblical worldview thinking is less comprehensive than biblical or systematic theology, and it is more practically	
applied to matters such as how we think, how we live, and how we defend our beliefs and practices. This is why we	
are studying the biblical worldview as part of our larger theme this semester of Christian Engagement.	
Key Themes and Texts about Creation	
God is eternal and existed before creation (Psa. 90:2; Isa. 40:28)	
Deep down, all humans know that God exists (Rom. 1:20)	
God is the creator of all things (Gen. 1:1; Psa. 121:1-2; 124:8; Jer. 32:17; Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 8:6)	
God created all things for his glory (Rev. 4:11)	



Jesus created all things for his glory (John 1:1-3; 1 Cor.

8:6; Col. 1:16)

God is worthy of worship because he created all things (Psa. 95:6; Rev. 5:13)	
God ordered his creation according to his design (Gen. 1:2; Ecc. 3:11; Amos 9:6; Heb. 3:4)	
The Holy Spirit was present at the creation and participating in the ordering of creation (Gen. 1:2)	
God created by the power of his spoken words (Gen. 1:3a and eight other times in Genesis 1; Psa. 33:6; Heb. 11:3)	
God saw that his creation was good every step of the way (Gen. 10b and four other times in Genesis 1)	
God saw that his creation was very good after he was finished creating (Gen. 10:31b)	
Seven days are mentioned in the Genesis creation account (Gen. 1:3-2:3)	
God rests on the seventh day (Gen. 2:1-3)	
God creates humans and they alone of all creatures are created in his divine image (Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:7)	
Humans are embodied creatures, with both material and immaterial parts (Gen. 2:7; Psa. 139:13-16; Matt. 10:28; 1 Thess. 5:23; James 2:26)	
God creates every individual human, not just the first two humans, and every human creature is unique (Psa. 139:13-14; Eph. 2:10)	
God commands humans to rule on God's behalf and to extend their dominion beyond the garden to the entire	
earth (Gen. 1:26-30; 2:15)  Humans are accountable to God and must obey his	
commands (Gen. 2:16-17)  Humans relate to other creatures, but especially to their	
fellow humans (Gen. 2:18-20a)  God created the first man before he created the first	
woman (Gen. 2:21-23)	
God creates humans with two complementary genders: male and female (Gen. 1:27; 2:20b-23; Matt. 19:4-6)	

God intends humanity to procreate through a one-flesh union between a man and a woman (Gen. 2:24-25; Matt. 19:4-6)	
Creation 101	
The Triune God has always existed and he always will.  Deep down, all humans know this to be true. The eternally existent God is the creator of all things that are not God.  Father, Son, and Spirit were active in creation. God created all things for his glory, and he is worthy of worship because he is creator. God created all things by the power of his spoken word, he brought order to his creation according to his sovereign design, creation took place over a fixed period, and the process was orderly and intentional rather than chaotic or random. Creation is fundamentally good.	
The pinnacle of creation is humanity, which alone among God's creatures bears his divine image. Humans are	
embodied creatures, possessing both a body and a soul.  Humans are gendered creatures, men and women  complement each other, and men and women relate to	
one another sexually through marriage, which is a one- flesh union between a man and a woman. Every human is	
uniquely created by God and known by him. God's intention for humans is that they rule over the earth, that they work for his glory, and that they be in right relationship with God, one another, and other creatures.	
Worldview Analysis: A Case Study	
Your adult child has been married for ten years. Both the husband and wife are believers and are involved in their	
church. They do not have children, but they don't struggle with fertility issues. They simply don't have any desire for children. They believe that children are too expensive and	
would prevent them from enjoying the lifestyle they desire. They also believe the world is a pretty scary place,	
and they are convinced it would be wrong to bring a child into the world. They have even contemplated taking steps to make it medically impossible to ever conceive children. They also have no interest in adopting or fostering, either.	
Worldview Implications of Creation	
All humans should acknowledge that God exists—atheism	

does not align with reality

God is sovereign over all things and he alone has the	
ultimate authority	
Everything that is not God is part of God's creation and is ultimately under his divine rule	
The universe is not eternal—it had a beginning	
Naturalistic theories of the origins of the universe or the existence of planet earth are not consistent with reality because God created all things that are not God	
Either the earth and the wider cosmos is not nearly as old as most scientists presently believe, or at the very least it has existed in its present form for no longer than a few thousand years	
The earth and the wider cosmos is intended to be orderly, not chaotic	
The earth and the wider cosmos is intended to be good, not evil	
Despite the vastness of the wider cosmos, the earth is at the center of God's purposes for all creation, even if there is far more to the wider cosmos that is known only to God and might never be known by humans	
Of all God's living creatures, only humans reflect his divine image	
Every human is uniquely created by God and is personally known by God—including preborn humans	
Every human life matters from womb to tomb, so both elective abortion and euthanasia are forms of murder	
Humans are the pinnacle of God's creation, not a plague upon the environment, so naturalistic approaches to environmentalism do not align with reality	
Humans did not evolve from other animals, but were created to rule over other animals	
Animal life matters, but animal life does not matter as much as human life—there are many good reasons to take an animal's life, but there are also many wrong reasons to take an animal's life	

Humans are stewards of the animal world and the	
environment on behalf of God, so it is important that we treat animals well and use natural resources wisely	
Humans have bodies and souls, both of which are part of what it means to be human	
Both bodily mutilation and denying spiritual reality are different ways to reject God's design	
Humans have only two genders: male and female—gender is fixed and cannot be changed	
Humans who desire to be a different gender, or who believe that gender is fluid, are rejecting God's design	
Men and women are intended to complement each other—progressive versions of feminism are a rejection of God's design	
Men and women are normally intended to marry—a voluntary rejection of marriage for selfish reasons is a rejection of God's design	
Men are intended to be the leader in marriage— egalitarianism is a rejection of God's design	
Marriage is the context through which children are supposed to be born into the world, and marriage is the context in which children are intended to be raised	
Children are a gift from God, so it is a rejection of God's design for a man and wife to willfully choose not to have children because you have a negative view of children	
Humans are meant to work—work is a blessing, not a curse	
Humans are meant to rest—we are not to always be at work	
Humans are meant to create culture, and culture is meant to glorify God	
Humans are meant to worship God and be in right relationship with him	

## **Christian Worldview Week at North Greenville University**

North Greenville University will host its annual Christian Worldview Week on March 4-6, 2025. The theme for the week is "Vocation and Human Flourishing." The speakers are Christina Crenshaw and Daniel Darling. The public, including members of Taylors First Baptist Church, are invited to the evening lectures, which will be on March 4 and 5 at 7:00pm.

"Redeeming Justice: Reclaiming God's Vision for Doing Good" Christian Crenshaw March 4 at 7:00pm

"Inside and Outside: Intentional Formation for Your Life in the World" Daniel Darling March 5 at 7:00pm

Christina Crenshaw is a speaker and author who focuses on the intersection of faith and culture. She has served in faculty or research roles at California Baptist University, Baylor University, and Dallas Theological Seminary. She is a fellow of the Land Center for Cultural Engagement at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He first book will be published this fall and focuses on how a biblical view of justice offers a better approach than secular misunderstandings of justice.

Daniel Darling is assistant professor of faith and culture at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he also directs the Land Center for Cultural Engagement. He has pastored several churches and previously worked for the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and the National Religious Broadcasters. Dan has written numerous books, including the bestselling "Characters" series. He is also a columnist for WORLD Opinions and hosts The Way Home podcast.