

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH GIBS/CFC ON CREATION  
STEWARDSHIP SYMPOSIUM ON NOV. 7.8, 2014  
CREATION STEWARSHIP DEFINITION By Dr. Robert Y. George Ph.D.**

1. God, the Creator, created this wonderful universe by the agency of the Word and power of Spirit. God expects all of us to lead a life in a manner worthy of God's gospel, consistent with the Biblical witness and toward effectual global impact to establish a Christian worldview. If we fail to care for God's creation, we will witness continuous deterioration of our land and water resources, thus diminishing its values to humanity. We are making local and global impacts whether we are faithful or not. This, in essence, is what 'Dominion' means. By the grace of God, our life support system does not totally collapse when abused. Nevertheless, we must do our best to steward carefully the resources entrusted to us. Stated plainly, God expects us (all people of all nations, cultures, rich and poor) to care for His creation (Genesis 1: 26-31).
2. Strictly speaking, we need to name and describe the world appropriately (Genesis 1:5; 8, 10, 11, 20 – 25). For example if you call a plant a weed, we will treat it differently. If you call it a flower or a fruit, you will not eliminate it as a weed, but will either enjoy it or eat it. The better way to call the world not as "Nature" but rather as "Creation."
3. To describe the world as 'Creation' means that it is "the work of God's hands." It is not morally or spiritually neutral, nor it is pointless, random, meaningless or without value. God creates because God loves. Creation is the visible, touchable, audible, smellable and delectable expressions of the love of the real eternal Triune God. To be in this creation is a witness to "God's Love" (John 3: 16 and Coll. 1: 16 –17), expressed as gift and joy.
4. Creation refers to a moral and spiritual topography that alerts us to a shared life in which we are answerable to fellow creatures and to God. To be a creature means that we are fundamentally dependent on each other, and that fully we rely on God for our life and sustainability. This means we understand that the world as creation and we also see that we have responsibilities not to turn what is created into an idol that serves our purpose or ambition. The world is God's. We fully rely

on God for our life and sustenance. It carries a divine intension that we must first understand and then we worship Him (John 1:3. and Psalm 48:2).

5. To be a human creature is no easy task, for in recognizing our shared creatureliness we discover our true identity and our vocation: "To be Sabbath people who delight in God's creation" (Deutonomy 5: 12-14).

\* This definition originated from "Dialogue between Prof. Norman Wirzba (Duke Divinity School) and Prof. Bob George (The George Institute), held in 2010 at the Center for Faith and Culture (CFC) of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. The definition was further modified with suggestions from Dr. Bruce Little of SEBTS, Dr. Rusty Pritchard of FLOURISH in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Steven Bouma-Prediger of Hope College, Holland, Michigan and further, fine-tuned by members of the Hope Lutheran Church Small Group on 'Creation Stewardship'.