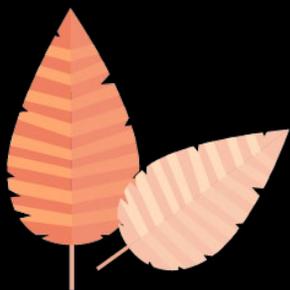


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Alliance Churches World Wide



Dare to care for Gods
creation



A blessed creation

- ✓ God created the earth very good
“God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good” Genesis 1.31
- ✓ The earth is God’s, not ours!
“The earth is the Lord’s” Psalm 24.1-2
“The land is mine and you reside in my land
as foreigners and strangers.” Leviticus 25.23
- ✓ Humanity is part of creation, not separate
“dust of the earth” Genesis 2.7
- ✓ Humanity is called apart - to image God
in caring for the earth & its creatures
“subdue ... rule over” Genesis 1.28
“work & take care of” Genesis 2.15



Impoverished world: major global threats

Habitat loss & destruction

Over-exploitation of wildlife

Pollution

Invasive species & diseases

Climate Change



A Fallen World

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✓ **Broken relationships, between God, humanity and creation**

“Cursed is the ground because of you” Genesis 3.17

✓ **The environmental results of sin**

The land ‘suffers’ (Jer. 12.4), ‘mourns’ (Hosea 4.1-3), ‘vomits’ (Lev. 18.25-28)

✓ **God’s judgement on ecological sin**

“The time has come for destroying those who destroy the earth.”
Revelation 11.18

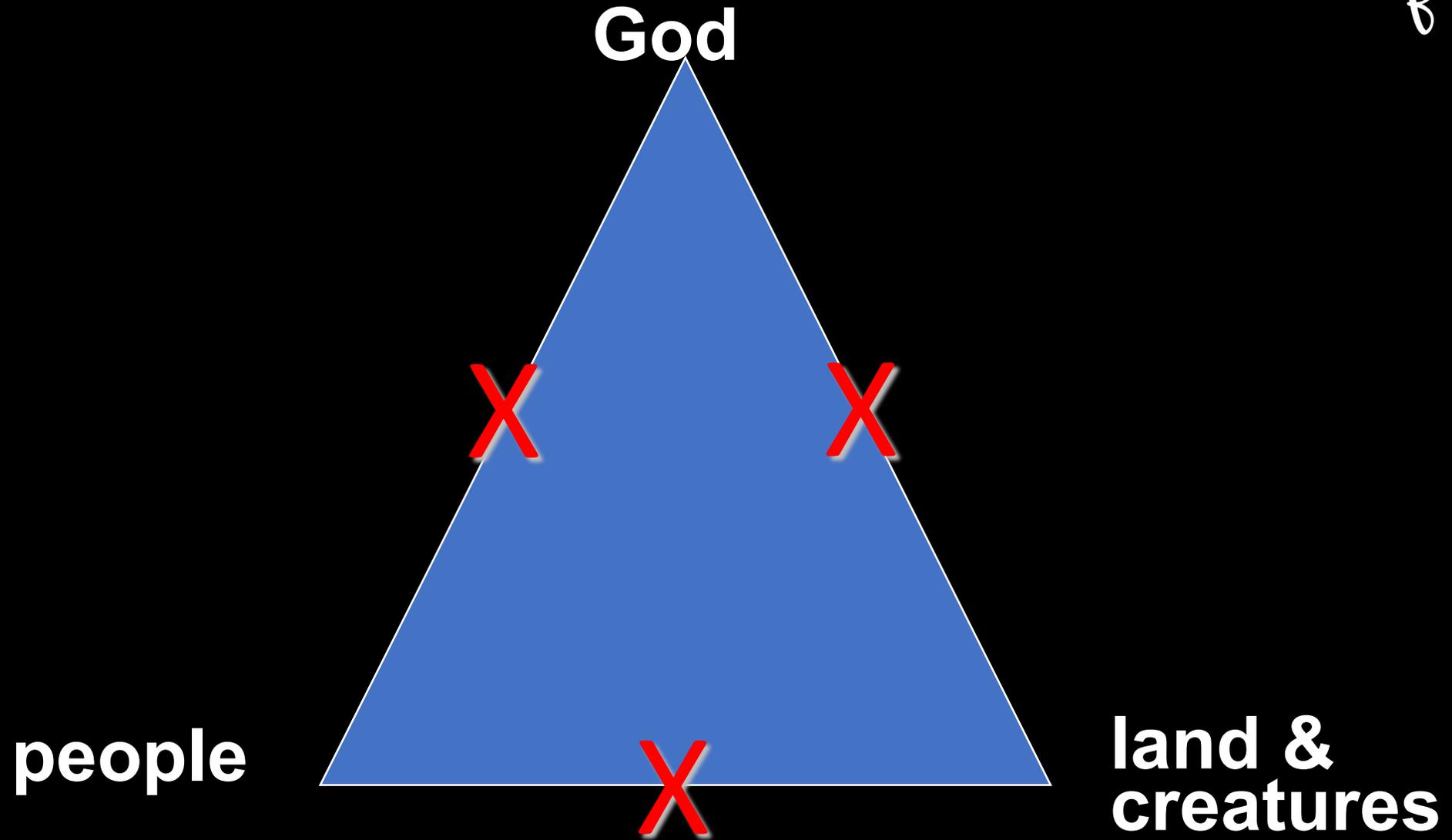
✓ **Hope beyond judgment**

God’s covenant with creation. Gen.9



A Fallen World: broken relationships

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A Fallen World: Judgment and hope in God's Covenant



- “to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth”
Genesis 7.3
- “My covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind.”
Genesis 9.15



Jesus – Saviour of the World

Colossians 1.15-20

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- **The Source of Creation**

v.16 “By him all things were created.”

- **The Sustainer of Creation**

v.17 “In him all things hold together.”

- **The Saviour of Creation**

v.20 He is the one through whom God is pleased “to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood shed on the cross.”



The Kingdom – “Already but not yet”

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✓ Vision: A Renewed Heavens and Earth

“God’s Kingdom is Creation healed” Hans Kung
(Isaiah 65.17-25, Hosea 2.19, Romans 8.19-22)

✓ Mission: Includes creation-care

“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation” (Mark 16.15)

✓ Our Worship

Joining with all creation in showing the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Revelation 4.1-11)



Daring to care for God's world



The Lordship of Christ

Bringing hope through the ministry of reconciliation

EVANGELISM

TEACHING

JUSTICE

COMPASSION

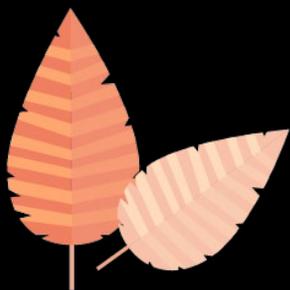
Building the church

CREATION

Serving society

Caring for creation

MISSIO DEI – GOD'S MISSION



The Bible declares God's redemptive purpose for *creation* itself. Integral mission means discerning, proclaiming, and living out, the biblical truth that the gospel is God's good news, through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, for individual persons, *and* for society, *and* for creation. All three are broken and suffering because of sin; all three are included in the redeeming love and mission of God; all three must be part of the comprehensive mission of God's people.



We cannot claim to love God while abusing what belongs to Christ by right of creation, redemption and inheritance. We care for the earth and responsibly use its abundant resources, not according to the rationale of the secular world, but for the Lord's sake. If Jesus is Lord of all the earth, we cannot separate our relationship to Christ from how we act in relation to the earth. For to proclaim the gospel that says 'Jesus is Lord' is to proclaim the gospel that includes the earth, since Christ's Lordship is over all creation. Creation care is thus a gospel issue within the Lordship of Christ. *Such love for God's creation* demands that we repent of our part in the destruction, waste and pollution of the earth's resources and our collusion in the toxic idolatry of consumerism. Instead, we commit ourselves to urgent and prophetic ecological responsibility.

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Discussion

- Do you agree that social work in it's core, is evangelical in spreading the gospel? Is social work valued as "evangelistic" in your church?
- What could it mean for you, in your context, to declare that Jesus Christ is Lord of all the earth in a world with an ongoing ecological crisis? What kind of needs do you see?
- How can we work with the ministry of reconciliation in the Alliance church world wide? What could be our contribution to the call to action from the Cape Town commitment?
- Is advocacy adjusted to your context, a task for the church?

