

**Cloverdale FPC Adult Sunday School W.C.F. To Codify – Unify - Testify**  
**Chapter 4. Of Creation.**

**Section 1. It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,<sup>a</sup> for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness,<sup>b</sup> in the beginning, to create or make of nothing the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good.<sup>c</sup>**

a. Gen 1:2; Job 26:13; 33:4; John 1:2-3; Heb 1:2

b. Psa 33:5-6; 104:24; Jer 10:12; Rom 1:20

c. Gen 1 throughout; Acts 17:24; Col 1:16; Heb 11:3.

**The world had a beginning.** This is consistently taught throughout the Bible. Gen. 1:1, Ps. 90:2, Eph. 1:4; 2 Tim. 1:9.

This most obvious truth clearly stated in the Word of God sets the Bible believer in opposition to the philosophies of the world. Nearly all religionists and philosophers accept that matter evolved over millions or billions of years. They do not allow for direct creation of all things in the world.

**God created all things in the space of six days.** There is no room for evolutionary thinking in this statement. They were 24-hour solar days. Theistic evolutionists, in an attempt to find common ground with science so-called, try to stretch the reference to days into vast periods of time. The Bible leaves no room for such a concept. The Hebrew word for day is “YOM” and is consistently used in the O.T. as a 24 hour solar day.

**The most credible date for the creation of the world is 4,004 before the Birth of Christ** – Archbishop Ussher. It is interesting that historians and archeologists speak of no civilizations, whether European, Chinese, Aztec etc. that pre-date 5,000 BC.

**The visible world is neither self-existent nor eternal.**

Albert Barnes commenting on Heb 11:1-3 stated: “Our faith now is not to be based on what; “appears,” by which we could infer or reason out what would be, but that we must exercise strong confidence in Him who had power to create the universe out of nothing. If this vast universe has been called into existence by the mere word of God, there is nothing which we may not believe he has ample power to perform.”

**God’s direct work of creation was necessary.**

**A.A. Hodges pointed out:** “If God be not the Creator of substance ex nihilo, as well as the former of worlds and of things, He cannot be absolutely sovereign in His decrees or in His works of creation, providence or grace. On every hand He would be limited and conditioned by the self-existent qualities of pre-existent substance, and their endless consequences.”

**God’s work of creation was good, as it served his glory.**

The WCF does not follow the idea that God created all things for their own happiness or self fulfilment. All of God’s creation was subservient to the will and purposes of God. See Shorter Cat. Q. 1. In that sense, God’s creation was good as everything including man and woman was so created to enjoy communion with God and attribute Glory to His name.

**Section 1**

The **Persons** in the Trinity involved in creating are stated.

The **purpose** of creation is stated and guarded here.

Agreeable to Shorter Cat. Q. 1.

What is man’s chief end?

To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

The **manner** of creation is stated – Ex-nihilo is the term used in Theology

The **extent** of Creation is stated – visible and invisible.

The **time** and duration is stated – 6 days.

**Section 2**

Man’s **ability** to choose righteousness when first created is stated.

Man’s **freedom** of will to choose sin (transgress) is stated.

The **happy estate** of man as covenant keeper and ruler over creation is stated.

**Section 2. After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female,<sup>a</sup> with reasonable and immortal souls,<sup>b</sup> endowed with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after his own image,<sup>c</sup> having the law of God written in their hearts,<sup>d</sup> and power to fulfil it;<sup>e</sup> and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change.<sup>f</sup> Beside this law written in their hearts, they received a command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil;<sup>g</sup> which while they kept they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.<sup>h</sup>**

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Man's **ability** to choose righteousness when first created is stated.

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a. Gen 1:27

b. Gen 2:7 with Eccl 12:7 and Mat 10:28 and Luke 23:43

c. Gen 1:26; Eph 4:24; Col 3:10

d. Rom 2:14-15

e. Eccl 7:29

f. Gen 3:6; Eccl 7:29

g. Gen 2:17; 3:8-11, 23

h. Gen 1:26, 28

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**This section shows the dignity of man in the following ways:**

1. He was created last, therefore, the world and everything in it were made for man's existence and happy function in this life.
2. God made man from one pair, male and female, while of the animals God made many pairs.
3. Man was made in the likeness and image of God. This meant he was endowed with spiritual capacities. He possessed a soul.

"...the image of God in man principally consisted in his conformity to the moral perfections of God, or in the complete rectitude of his nature. From two passage in the N.T., it appears that the image of God, after which man was at first created, and to which he is restored by the Holy Spirit, consists in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness (Eph. 4:24, Col. 3:10)... His will was in conformity to the will of God. He knew his duty, so he was fully disposed to the performance of it. There was no need that the moral law should be written on tables of stone, for it was engraven on the heart of man in fair and legible characters. He had likewise sufficient ability to fulfil it; but his will was entirely free to act according to his original light and holy inclinations, or to turn aside to evil." R. Shaw pg. 64

4. Man was placed in a happy estate. The garden provided every comfort and delights. The garden in which they were placed furnished them with every external comfort; they were called to engage in easy and delightful employments; they were exempted from the least degree of languor and of pain; they knew no guilt, they felt no shame, they were strangers to fear, and no angry passions disturbed their souls. But their happiness chiefly consisted in the favour of God, and in the intimate fellowship with Him to which they were admitted. What an illustrious creature was man when he came from the hand of his Maker! But how sadly changed now! "God made man upright, but they have sought out many inventions." R. Shaw

**The creation of the world is according to good sense.** This is illustrated when Robert Ingersoll asked Bishop Brooks who made the celestial globe with raised figures to represent the planets. He was rebuked for his atheism when told, Nobody! Genesis 1:1 is the truth of earth's beginning.