



# THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GOSPEL: SUSTAINABILITY & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

“Many church people consider ecology to be a secular concern. ‘What does environmental preservation have to do with Jesus and His church?’ they ask.

They could not be more shallow or more wrong”. (Joseph Sittler, theologian)

# Recap from Talk One

1. God so loved the cosmos.....
2. Our planet's life is in deep trouble and we are alienated from it
3. Our economic model may be one cause of the problem but it is so hard to change



## What Does the Bible Say?

**For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, ....all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

**Colossians 1 v16-17**

**In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.**

**Deuteronomy 11:12**

**A land that the LORD your God cares for. The eyes of the LORD your God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.**

**Deuteronomy 11 v12**

# The Big Questions of Creation Care

1. We need a sustainable economy but what would it look like?
2. Can governments and new technologies deal with climate change?



3. Or do individuals need to make a contribution?

# Public Attitudes to environmental Issues: A Survey across 9 countries (Kantar Report)

Is Climate Change a cause for concern?	Yes – 78%
Has it impacted on me?	Yes – 55%
Are you very committed to preserving the planet? (0-10)	8-10 – 36%
Your government is committed to preserve the planet (0-10)	8-10 – 18%
I accept stricter environmental rules on me	Yes – 78%
I don't need to change my habits	Yes – 46%



**Very important to reduce waste & recycle**

**Yes – 57%**

**We must stop deforestation**

**Yes – 54%**

**We must favour public transport over cars**

**Yes - 25%**

**We must reduce plane travel**

**Yes – 23%**

**Increase non environmental product prices**

**Yes – 23%**

**We must reduce meat consumption**

**Yes – 18%**

# What is a Sustainable Economy?

Your view.....?



**'Green Growth'**  
**Technology**  
**No fossil fuels**  
**Net zero**  
**Reforestation**  
**Circular economy**

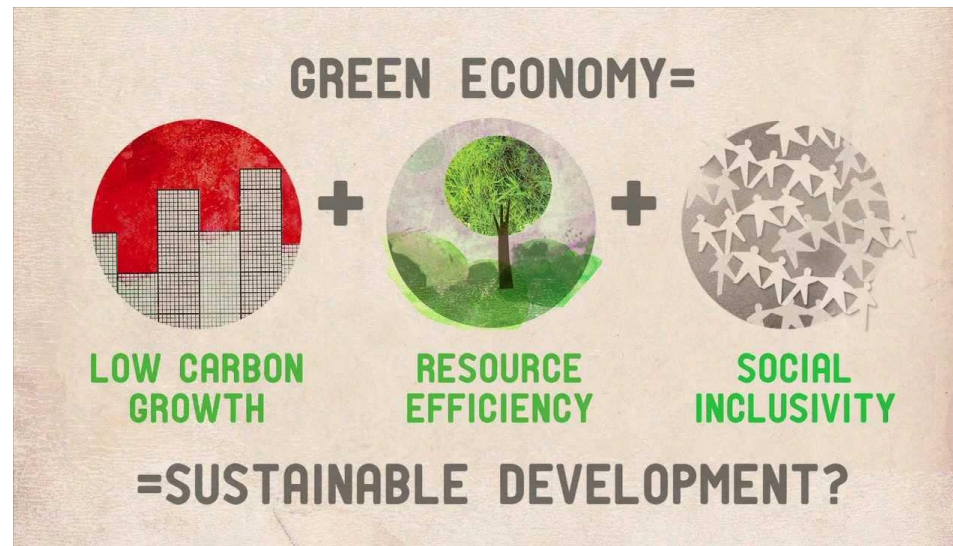
**No growth**  
**Control**  
**investment**  
**Control**  
**population**

**Changed lifestyles**  
**Rethink SOLS - equality**  
**Production for need**  
**Social wages**  
**UBI?**  
**More leisure & care**

# Our Current Economy



Growth has provided:  
Rising SOLS  
Easy public spending finance  
Higher employment\*\*\*  
More 'acceptable' inequality  
Fewer hard choices  
The magic bullet?



# And Its Problems



Unachievable expectations  
No votes in zero growth  
Jobs v 'green' false dilemma  
Hard choices for politicians  
Needed population growth  
'No personal costs in going green' delusion



# Taking Personal Responsibility We Can make a Difference

I am not interested  
I am too busy  
Its too hard  
Too little information



**This is un-Biblical**  
**Do simple things**  
**Its too important**  
**Not so, & do simple things**

**So what should I do?**

## Personal actions

We are all limited by income, or time, or busyness, or energy, or knowledge

Drive less, walk or cycle

1 degree down

Recycle+++

Keep clothes longer

Wash them less

Buy in charity shops

Repair, or buy efficient white goods

Buy local produce

Keep mobile phones/tablets 5+ years

Use public transport

Use less water

Solar panels/ batteries, Eddies

Buy LED lights

See Tip of the Month

Air source heat pumps

Eat less or no meat



Buy an electric car  
Car share  
Consume less –  
1 Timothy 6; v6-12  
Develop economic &  
social Christian values  
Avoid cruises???  
Fly much less  
Travel less  
Care for the poor  
Green education

Pressurise politicians  
It is an emergency!  
Make green choices  
Decide when enough  
is enough  
Be resource  
conscious  
Be self interested!

### **Why Does Green Living Matter?**

- healthier home
- conserves energy
- healthier planet
- less waste, deforestation,  
pollution, and greenhouse gas  
emissions



**“Wealth is like  
seawater: the  
more you drink  
the thirstier you  
become” Arthur  
Schopenhauer**



Here are some interesting ideas

Triodos Bank

Ethical Investment

Ecotalk.co.uk

**IBERDROLA**  
Tips for sustainable lifestyle

**RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION**  
Reduce food and water waste and commit to circular economy and energy efficiency.

**SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY**  
Opt for a car, bicycle or electric scooter, carsharing and public transport.

**SUSTAINABLE FOOD**  
Buy organic foods and eat more fruit and vegetables and less meat and fish.

**SUSTAINABLE DESIGN**  
Opt for ecodesign, from t-shirts to glasses, shoes or toothbrushes.

**RECYCLE AND USE LESS PLASTIC**  
Don't forget to recycle properly and avoid single-use plastics.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**  
Share your experience and awareness of the importance of sustainability with those around you.

# **Some Controversial Claims..... which are true?**

- False economic model, GDP & selfish, rational individuals**
- Our system can damage well being**
- Governments won't act without public pressure**
- People won't take a SOL cut**
- individuals do/don't need to do anything**
- Business and technology can do it for us**
- It's my right to pollute and consume**
- We are storing up intergenerational pressures**



**Could TBC be a Creation caring community?**