

Sunday, February 9, 2020 - Hope Fellowship Church  
Sermon Notes, Pastor Dale Melenberg

Praying With Each Other – Relationships: Doing The World Well:  
HuMandate

**Big Beginnings**

[Genesis 1: 1,2](#) – In the beginning

[Genesis 1: 3-11](#) – Creating

[Genesis 1: 14-24](#) – Filling

God's Design – Everything is Spiritual

[Genesis 1: 26-31](#) - HuMandate



**Creation Fall Redemption**

Conflict / Hero story

**Contemporary Testimony** ([Our World Belongs to God](#), see below)

Beginnings. 1

Creation. 7, 10

Fall. 13

Outcomes. 15, 16

Redemption. 18

Christ (Hero). 23

Outcomes. 30, 44

New Creation. 55

Our Posture. 1

**Take Home Questions:**

What does it mean to you personally, that our world belongs to God?

How will this understanding change your posture, behaviour, attitude?

What can we do together to impact the world with the HuMandate?

## Doing the World Well: Contemporary Testimony

### Confession

1. As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world--  
which some seek to control, but which others view with despair--  
we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God!

### Creation

7. Our world belongs to God--  
It does not belong to us or earthly powers,  
nor does it belong to demons, fate, or chance.  
The earth is the Lord's!
10. As God's creatures we are made in his image  
We are to represent him on earth,  
and to live in loving communion with him.  
By His sovereign appointment we are earth keepers and caretakers:  
We are to love our neighbours,  
tend the creation, and meet our needs.  
God gifts us with our skills in the unfolding  
and well-being of his world.

### Fall

13. Early in our human history our first parents  
listened to the intruder's voice.  
Rather than living by the Creator's word of life,  
they fell for Satan's lie and sinned!  
They forgot their place; they tried to be like God.  
As sinners they feared the nearness of God  
and they hid from him.

## Outcomes

15. No longer able to show God's image, all of creation suffers.  
We either abuse the creation, or we idolize it.  
All relationships are broken...  
We are estranged from our Creator,  
and because of that we are also estranged from our neighbour,  
and we are estranged from the Creation that God has made.
16. All spheres of life --  
marriage and family, work and worship,  
school and state, our play and art --  
all bear the wounds of our rebellion against God.
- 16a. Sin is present everywhere in our preferences ...  
in the way we want our world to run:  
Sin is present ...

## Redemption

18. While justly angry,  
God did not turn his back on a world bent on destruction;  
Instead he turned his face to it in love.  
God does not *hate* us – he chooses to *love* us.  
With patience and tender care God  
set out on the long road of redemption.  
He set out to reclaim the lost as his people  
and to restore the world as his kingdom.

## Christ

23. God remembered his promise to reconcile the world to himself;  
So he sent his son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word made flesh.  
Jesus is the long-awaited Saviour, fully human and fully divine,  
Jesus conceived by the Spirit of God and born of the virgin Mary.

## Outcomes

30. The Spirit pushes us out into worldwide mission.

The Spirit impels young and old, men and women,  
to go next door and far away

To go into science and art, media and the marketplace  
with the good news of God's grace.

*We call this the Reformed view of our mandate;  
the Spirit goes before us and goes with us,  
convincing the world of sin and pleading the cause of Christ.*

44. We serve Christ

by thankfully receiving our life as a gift from his hand.

We protest and resist all abuse and harm of this gift.

We protest and resist abortion, pollution, gluttony, addiction.

We protest and resist all foolish risks.

## New Creation

*But in all this effort to make things right, we know that*

55. Our hope for a new earth is not tied to what humans can do.

For we believe that one day every challenge to God's rule  
and every resistance to his will shall be crushed.

Then his kingdom shall come fully, and our Lord shall rule forever.

*So, in the meantime ...*

1. As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world--

which some seek to control, but which others view with despair--

we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God!