

**Emmaus Essentials**  
**The London Baptist Confession of 1689**  
**Chapter 4 - Of Creation**  
**For Distribution the Week of 01/05/2014**

**I. Introduction**

- A. First principles
- B. Major worldview issues

**II. Active Creation**

1.\_\_\_\_\_ In the beginning it pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, to create or make the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good.

( John 1:2, 3; Hebrews 1:2; Job 26:13; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16; Genesis 1:31)

A. The Persons Acting - The work of Creation

- 1. Father Governs
- 2. Son Speaks

- a) He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:2–3, ESV)
- b) but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. (Hebrews 1:2, ESV)

3. Holy Spirit Hovers Over the Waters

- a) In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:1–2, ESV)

B. What is the the Purpose

- 1. Manifests the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness
  - a) Creation does not add anything to God, but rather demonstrates who God is.

C. The Act

1. The extent

- a) World does not mean earth, but all things visible and invisible.
  - (1) Visible - material world
  - (2) Invisible - spiritual beings
  - (3) In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1, ESV)

2. The time frame

- a) In the space of 6 days
  - (1) The original authors of the confession probably had in mind 6, 24 hour periods.

3. The result: very good

- a) Avoids dualistic tendencies
- b) Sin and evil are not a part of the original creation
- c) No evil inherent in matter
- d) Invisible angels were good

**III. The Creation of Man (Passive Creation)**

2.\_\_\_\_\_ After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, rendering them fit unto that life to God for which they were created; being made after the image of God, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness; having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfil it, and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject to change.

( Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:7; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 1:26; Romans 2:14, 15; Genesis 3:6 )

A. The Time frame

- 1. After God made all other things

- 2. Culmination of the creative process
  - a) Crown of creation
- B. The Act
  - 1. God created man
  - 2. No place for theistic evolution, or any other evolutionary theory
- C. The purpose: Life to God
  - 1. God made man in his image to reflect his glory in them in the greatest way.
  - 2. We were made to live to God's glory
- D. The image of God
  - 1. "In knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness..."
    - a) Col. 3:10
    - b) Eph. 4:24
  - 2. A moral being that reflects a Moral Being
- E. The Law of God: Natural Law
  - 1. Identified
    - a) Natural Law
    - b) Moral Law
  - 2. Natural ability
    - a) Able to keep the law
  - 3. Mutability
    - a) Able to transgress the law
    - b) Here is the difference between man as a moral creature and God - man is immutable, man mutable.

#### **IV. Positive Law**

3.\_\_\_\_ Besides the law written in their hearts, they received a command not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which whilst they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.

( Genesis 2:17; Genesis 1:26, 28 )

- A. An external commandment
  - 1. Given by revelation
  - 2. Different from natural or moral law in that positive law can only come externally. All men have natural and moral law
  - 3. Positive law is covenantal
    - a) Tree of knowledge of Good and Evil
    - b) Circumcision
    - c) Baptism
  - 4. Command given by God for a specific purpose and/or time
  - 5. External command given besides the law of the heart
- B. The present result
  - 1. So long as they kept the command they enjoyed:
    - a) Communion with God
    - b) Maintenance of their dominion (they kept their first estate as God's vice regents)