



Centre for
**Christian
Living**

BRINGING BIBLICAL ETHICS

TO

EVERYDAY ISSUES

Why we need Jesus' help with our sexualities



SPEAKER
ED SHAW



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21 AUGUST | **7.30PM – 9.30PM**

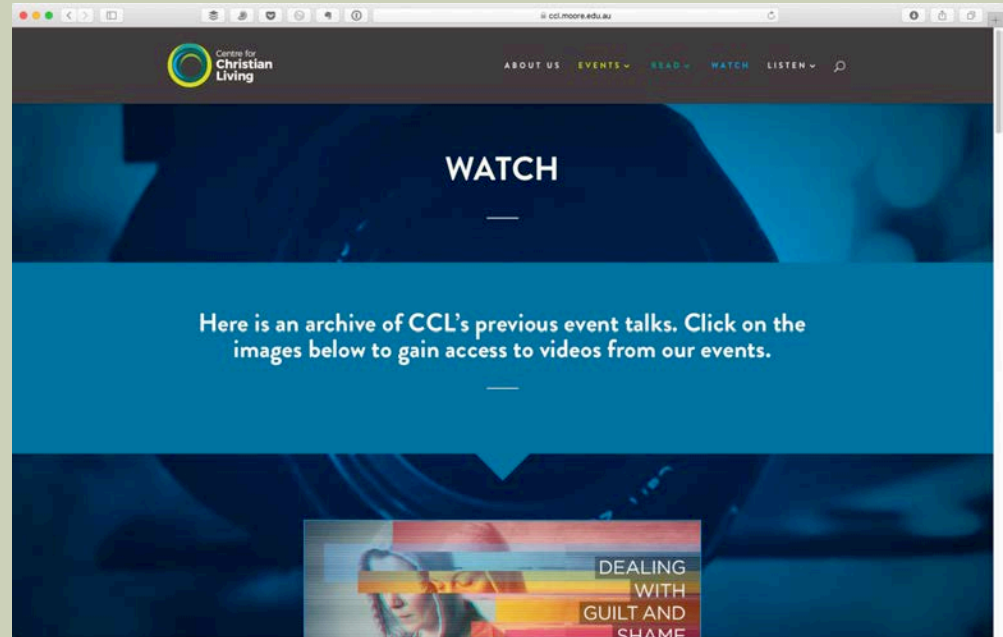
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Approaching any subject as Christians

- Look carefully at the situation, with a Christian mind
- Reflect on how the Bible thinks about it
- Deliberate about the specific question

The current situation

- The harm we do in a complex system
- Two background worldviews:
 - Technological Materialism
 - Ecological Pantheism

The view from above



The Green Bible Preface:

‘Many Bibles, called “red-letter editions,” have Jesus’ direct statements printed in red. We have adapted this practice to introduce the “green-letter edition.” In it we highlight the rich and varied ways the books of the Bible speak directly to how we should think and act as we confront the environmental crisis facing our planet... Essays ... show how to **read the Bible through a “green lens.”**’

The Image of God

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Gen 1:1)

The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. (Gen 1:12)

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth”. (Gen 1:26)

How to rule the world

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

(Genesis 2:15)

What is a tree for?

- A tree is good. (Gen 1:12)
- A tree is beautiful. (Gen 2:9)
- A tree is for food. (Gen 1:29)
- A tree is a blessing from God for his creation, even in those wild places where no human being has set foot. (Job 40:20-22)
- A tree is for birds. (Ps 104:16-17)
- A tree is a blessing from God for people and a sign of peace, giving shade and shelter to those under his protection. (Mic 4:3-4)
- A tree is for houses for kings and people. (2 Sam 5:11)
- A tree is for the praise of God's glory. (Ps 148:7-9)

What is a tree for?

When you besiege a city for a long time, making war against it in order to take it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an axe against them. You may eat from them, but you shall not cut them down. Are the trees in the field human, that they should be besieged by you? Only the trees that you know are not trees for food you may destroy and cut down, that you may build siegeworks against the city that makes war with you, until it falls.

(Deuteronomy 20:19-20)

The broken image

- Humanity in rebellion (Genesis 3)
- Human sin: A disaster for the world:
 - “cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.”

(Genesis 3:17-18)

The broken image

- Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel,
for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land.
There is no faithfulness or steadfast love,
and no knowledge of God in the land;
there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery;
they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.
Therefore the land mourns,
and all who dwell in it languish,
and also the beasts of the field
and the birds of the heavens,
and even the fish of the sea are taken away. (Hos 4:1-3)

Jesus is the man

It has been testified somewhere [Psalm 8],

“What is man, that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that you care for him?

You made him for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned him with glory and honour,
putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. (Heb 2:6-9)

Jesus is the reconciler

He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Col 1:15-20)

Putting on the new self

put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

(Colossians 3:5)

put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator

(Colossians 3:10)

The future of the world

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.”

(2 Peter 3:10)

New creation:

- Revelation 21:1-5; 22:1-5
- Romans 8:18-23

While you wait

- Eager expectation
- Love your neighbor
- Labour in the Lord



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Some ethical reflections

- The inadequacies of consequentialism
- Virtues for environmental ethics
 - Thankfulness
 - Faith
 - Love
 - Hope



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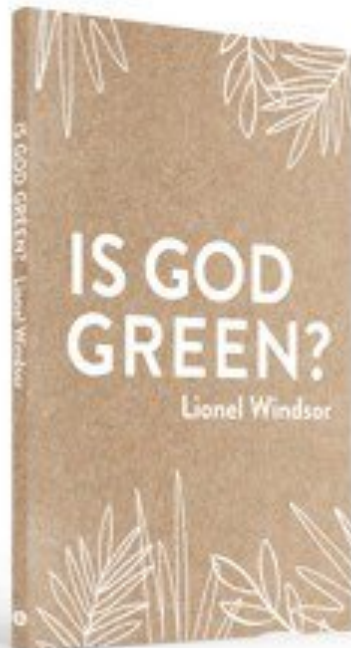
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