

Green Christians?

Do Christians support “the rape and pillage of the environment”? Our society is certainly not “Christian.” It is corrupt at every level. God is not honored. In fact, there is little care for the environment as a consequence of our society *not being* Christian.

Genuine Christians care about the environment. God’s original commission to man at creation was this "fill the earth and rule it."

What did God call man to do in “ruling” over the earth? God called man to care for the earth by making it beautiful, orderly and productive. Allowing the environment to be destroyed disobeys God just as surely as breaking any other of His commandments.

Where from then, this myth of Christian support for the rape and pillage of the environment? It comes from a failure to understand the scriptural idea of ruling. Many of our rulers take control of what is to be ruled and exploit it for their pleasure and profit. Nothing could be more alien to the scriptures. Rulers of the Bible were called to be responsible for the welfare of what they ruled. The words ‘king’ and ‘shepherd’ are interchangeable in scripture. A king was responsible for the health, safety, and security of his people. God gave His people land grants when he brought them into the promised land. Those who received such grants were responsible for improving the land as God’s tenants.

The clearest understanding of what scripture means by ‘ruling’ is seen in Jesus Christ. God appointed Him ruler of the universe. What does that mean? It means He’s setting everything right. It means that He has taken up responsibility for all aspects of His people’s welfare. It is why He went to the cross. God’s people were guilty of rebellion. That rebellion brought down God’s judgement. Christ rescued His people from judgement by dying to take their just punishment. As God, He has given Himself, and all of His resources, to do good to His people in every way.

Genuine Christians follow Christ, and so cannot help but be ‘green’, and follow their king, leader and example Christ.