

'Responsibility'

A session in the 'Sustainability: Living Simply' Day

by

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Outline

Current context - crisis?

- perceived as a human being
- perceived as a Christian

How did we come to so misconstrue?

- in planetary resource terms
- in theological terms

On what basis can we move forward?

- How do we make ethical decisions?

Current context - crisis?

- Is it a crisis?
 - Or a Chinese hoax?
- Perceived as a human being
 - Science - IPCC; politics – tricky in a democracy; food; water; population; cost burden; impact burden; mitigation; adaptation...
- Perceived as a Christian
 - Bible; theology; stewardship; discipleship; care for Creation and the neighbour...

International Panel on Climate Change Report:

SPM 1.2 Causes of climate change

- **Anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions** have increased since the pre-industrial era, driven largely by economic and population growth, and are now higher than ever. This has led to atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide that are unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years.
- Their effects, **together with those of other anthropogenic drivers**, have been detected throughout the climate system and are extremely likely to have been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century. {1.2, 1.3.1}

How did we come to so misconstrue things?

- In planetary resource terms?
 - 'GDP is paramount'
 - 'Technology will find ways through'
- in theological and biblical terms?
 - Approaches to scripture
 - Understandings of God

On what basis can we move forward?

How do we make ethical decisions?

- ***Shared Sources*** – of valued, trusted messages
- ***Documented Tradition*** – of interpretation; and confidence in development of new: trusted messengers
- ***Human Experience*** – articulated, affirmed, codified into wisdom that is shared in stories that we tell with joy

Some Resources

Encyclical Letter: Laudato 'Si – on care for our common home; Pope Francis; June 2015

Windows into EcoTheology; six-part course by Revd Dr Lucy Larkin; Truro Cathedral, Pearson Room; 9 Jan – 13 Feb 2017;

Bible and Ecology; Richard Baukham; DLT; 2010

'L' is for Lifestyle; Ruth Valerio; IVP; 2008

Just Living; Ruth Valerio; Hodder & Stoughton; 2016

This Changes Everything; Naomi Klein; Allen Lane; 2014

How Can One Sell the Air? – Chief Seattle's Vision; Native Voices, Summertown, Tennessee; 2005

Richard Rohr; <https://cac.org/richard-rohr/richard-rohr-ofm/>

Diocese of Truro, Environment: <http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/resource-collection/green-church-kernow/>