

Heated Comments on Global Warming

In our September/October issue, we asked readers for their opinions about global warming. Is it a hoax or is it real? Is it a natural cycle or humanly caused? Should we be alarmed or should we continue business as usual? What do you think God expects Christians to do? Here is a small sampling of the overwhelming response. Comments have been edited for space and clarity. Thanks for sharing your thoughts and insights!

While a lot of the fluff about global warming may not be scientifically correct, I still believe that as Christians we are responsible to care for the earth. Researchers, such as my father was, have been showing that we are affecting the environment in a negative fashion. I hope that (as in the parable of the stewards) when our Master returns he will find us more faithful in this category. —Virginia

This earth is a gift from God, and we should treat it as such. If a friend gave me a shirt, I wouldn't maliciously go and dump grape juice on it. We are stewards of the earth, but the final outcome is in God's hands. That doesn't mean we shouldn't take care of the gifts that God gives us here and now. —Arkansas

Global warming is a straw man. Regardless of whether human activity is causing it, shouldn't Christians care for creation? Unfortunately, many Christians degenerate the issue with emotive responses. What we need more than ever before are Christians who are ready to take seriously God's command to steward the earth (Genesis 1:28). —Kentucky

Global warming is real. Mankind is directly responsible for it. Industrial countries, especially, are to blame. Their industries pump a lot of filth into the air. Widespread deforestation in developing countries has also caused increased carbon dioxide. Governments must put in place clear policies on environmental management. Internationally, countries should sign binding accords/treaties on greenhouse gas emissions. When God finished creating the earth, it was "very good" (Genesis 1:31). He then gave humanity the responsibility of tending and keeping it (Genesis 1:26). This implies that nobody can walk away from this great responsibility. —Kenya

Finally! Christians encouraging one another to take care of the earth, just as God told Adam to do so long ago. My unsaved, earth-friendly friends generally find Christians to be uncaring, wasteful and calloused when it comes to the small things we should all be doing to pass along a good earth to our kids. We are called to take care of it! These are all easy, wonderful things that we as Christians can do to show a world that we do care, and that we love. After all, isn't that what we should be known for? —North Carolina

I am a forester and have worked in the woods of the southern US for over 30 years. I can attest that our climate has changed. I believe natural climate cycling is the main culprit. But human insensitivity to the creation, shown by our exploitive land use patterns have resulted in massive worldwide ecosystem breakdown. The end result is that we have weakened the earth's natural "immune system" which would have protected us from the detrimental effects of natural climate change. —Florida

I do not know if the widely held position of the environmental scientists, activists and politicians is correct on global warming. Our treatment of the earth should reflect our gratitude to God and our own desire to live in a good, clean home. We should apply the thoughts of Abraham Lincoln, who in the midst of the Civil War spoke words to the effect that we should work to end the crisis as though no prayer could help and pray as though no human effort would suffice. —North Carolina

Global warming is a consequence of man-made pollution, caused by unchecked human greed and lust. The degree of the global warming is a natural cycle, along with God's intervention most of the time. The normal weather cycle is changing as I write. —Illinois

Extreme weather is going to happen. Whether these weather changes are our fault or not, it's pretty clear that we cannot change them. At the same time, God does tell us to "take care" of the planet. He has provided us with renewable energies, yet we pour our time, money and lives into dirty fuels that will eventually run out. —Massachusetts

Global warming is a natural phenomena and has been repeated many times. Core drillings in the Arctic ice reveal dramatic changes in weather conditions over millions of years. Volcanic eruptions and forest fires contribute large volumes of pollution. When Mt. St. Helens erupted, scientists estimated more CO₂ was released into the atmosphere than was released by all mankind on earth for one year. —Indiana

Aside from being the "New Religion" of the left, the global warming advocates have poor science or realities on their side. Sun spots are running at 11-year, 100-year and 1000-year highs. Undersea temperatures are running higher than normal. Both of these precede rises in atmospheric temperature. —Florida

These environmental wackos are the same people who warned us back in the '70s that we were going to have a global freezing and that all the oil on earth would be dried up. Neither one has happened. —Pennsylvania

The way you get people to read the media is to scare them! Any kind of catastrophe will do the job. If none are handy, just make one up. Global warming is just an example. The geologic record finds many examples of such warming over the millennia. Just look at the 1930s dust-bowl years. Politicians, advertisers, editors and yes, even "scientists" will do almost anything to get in the limelight. —New Jersey