



GrayIsGreen

Who are we?

Gray Is Green is an online gathering of older adult Americans aspiring to create a green legacy for the future. As environmentally conscious elders, we respond to a generational call: to co-create a future of economic justice, ecological sustainability and social justice.

We hold next generations of humans in mind and consider the future of ecosystems and other species. We are alert to the historic challenges facing our planet. And we are aware of the question arising from descendants generations hence:

What did you do, when you knew?

What do we do?

We aspire to embrace our eldership, living beyond consumerism and ageism. **Our Curriculum for Gray-Green Living** offers a variety of ways to join—and re-engage with—this elder movement.

We offer a periodic newsletter, a speaker's bureau, online resources, a [Facebook page](#) for relevant updates. In partnership with congenial organizations, we serve as a central clearinghouse of ideas and communications for older adults interested in greening their lives, learning about sustainability, advocating for sound public policy, being creative stewards or grandparents, emerging as elders, and mentoring young people.

*We invite **you** to get involved!*

www.grayisgreen.org

Pathways To Gratitude

Overview of Christianity and the Earth/ Human Relationship

We are earth creatures, made from the dust of creation, given breath by a gracious God. Christianity shares this understanding with Judaism, its parent religion. Indeed, many of Christianity's understandings of the Earth/Human relationship are rooted in the Hebrew Bible. That the Galilean prophet, Jesus, became the primary symbol of Christianity—the Word Made Flesh—demonstrates an earthy reality ground of Christian self-understanding.

Both branches of western Christianity, Roman Catholicism¹ and Protestantism², share core beliefs about the earth/human relationship:

Creation as Gift

All of Creation—and thus Earth—is a gift of God. Earth is good in and of itself *alone*. Yet Earth is also good because it provides for human flourishing. Our human flourishing arises from the gifts of Earth in many ways: we depend upon the earth for sustenance *and* joy, for nourishment *and* beauty.

Revelation

Christians believe that a Holy Book reveals God. Yet Christians also believe that God is revealed through the Book of Nature, that the presence, purpose, and promises of God may just as easily be read in the splendor of creation. The intelligence that brought Earth into being is engagingly apparent in the Book of Nature.

The Divine Spark

All creation bears the divine spark. Godself is thus present within each aspect of Earth: rock and river, microscopic particles, humans and their creaturely cousins. This is a radically sacramental concept, and while historically more prevalent in Roman Catholicism, its presence in Protestantism has also been quietly persistent. Because the divine spark resonates through all reality, Christians believe that to love God is to love Earth; to love Earth is to love God.

For Christians the relationship between Earth and humanity is unavoidably mutual. Humans spring from, and are dependent upon Earth. Yet humans also have an impact on the earth—for good or ill. To seek the healing of a wounded world is perhaps Christianity's greatest challenge.

¹ <http://www.acton.org/public-policy/environmental-stewardship/theology-e/roman-catholic-church-holy-see-environment> and <http://www.yaleclimatemedi forum.org/2012/02/the-catholic-church-and-climate-change/>

² <http://www.blessedearth.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Denominational-Statements.pdf> and <http://catholicclimate-covenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/NRPE-SOTU-2014-Final.pdf>



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