

How do we in a Christian worldview think of the sustainable development goals?

Man was given dominion of the earth.

In Genesis chapter one we read:

So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.” Ge 1:27–28

His followers are to steward the earth thoughtfully (Ge 1:26).

As Adam tended to the Garden of Eden, man should care for the planet that God created (Ge 1:1–10). This includes proper care for the animals (Ge 1:21–25) and vegetation (Ge 1:11, 12).

Man can harness earth’s resources to care for people (Mt 19:19). Our abilities to equip and instruct—the wisdom to care for the planet—comes from God (Ge 1:26–28).

In the Book of Numbers, God assigned areas to the Levites (Nu 35:1–5). This provided a good example of stewardship¹.

Good stewardship respects the limits which God has placed on man. To love one’s neighbor, societies must use discernment when: extracting natural resources, controlling pollution, modifying habitats and using plants and animals for food (1 Ki 3:9, 1 Co 14:33, 1 Thess 5:21).

God created and equipped man to work (Ge 1:26; 2:5). Dominion of the planet includes responsible planning (Nu 35:1-5).

¹ Growth of pastureland.