

theology on tap



Climate change with Dr Johannes M Luetz



Music by Jacqui Cuny

SUNDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 4.00 PM

THE CROWN HOTEL

446 LUTWYCHE RD, LUTWYCHE
(NEXT TO THE GOOD GUYS)

Brought to you by the Theology on Tap team:
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Is there any common ground between climate science, social justice and biblical Christian theology? A discussion informed by multidisciplinary perspectives

It is now well known that the effects of climate change are falling disproportionately on poor and vulnerable communities and future generations. Drawing on years of research conducted at Sydney's University of New South Wales (UNSW) in conjunction with World Vision International, this talk explores the issue of human responsibility at the intersection of climate science, social justice and Christian theology. It also raises questions for reflection and discussion.

- If it is really true that “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” (Gen. 1:31), what responsibility does this imply for the abiding care and stewardship of his Creation?
- If it is really true that climate change impacts are hitting the poor first and worst (Brainard et al 2009), how does this align with the mission of Jesus who was anointed to bring “good news to the poor”? (Lk. 4:18)
- If it is really true that “all creation groans together in pain” (Rom. 8:22), can Creation Care be understood as a God-given mandate to “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves”? (Prov. 31:8)
- Do Christians have a duty to defend the rights of constituencies whose cries are not sufficiently heard by policy makers today, namely the poor, future generations, and millions of creatures implied by the term “biodiversity”?
- If it is really true that “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son” for it (Jn. 3:16), can the progressive destruction of His Creation possibly “hasten the coming of the day of God”? (2. Pet. 3:12)
- If it is really true that 97% of climate science research agrees that humans are chiefly to blame for the climate crisis now gathering momentum (Cook et al 2013, Cook 2014), ... *how should we then live?*

The talk also features grassroots perspectives of some of the 400 participants interviewed in dozens of predominantly poor communities in Asia and Latin America.



Dr Johannes M Luetz is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Social Sciences at Christian Heritage College in Brisbane. He has worked extensively with World Vision on research projects raising awareness of the growing effects of climate change on poor and vulnerable communities in Asia, Africa and Latin America.