

Faculty Work Comprehensive List

8-29-2014

To Engage Creation

Joel K. Sikkema

Dordt College, joel.sikkema@dordt.edu

Justin Vander Werff

Dordt College, justin.vanderwerff@dordt.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/faculty_work



Part of the [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Engineering Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Sikkema, J. K., & Vander Werff, J. (2014). To Engage Creation. Retrieved from https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/faculty_work/354

This Blog Post is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Collections @ Dordt. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Work Comprehensive List by an authorized administrator of Digital Collections @ Dordt. For more information, please contact ingrid.mulder@dordt.edu.

To Engage Creation

Abstract

"An engineer's role in this service is to use science and technology to care for the entirety of creation - humans, other creatures, and the natural environment - in a way that both develops its potential and ensures that our activities do not impair its ability to flourish in the future."

Posting about a Christian perspective on engineering from *In All Things* - an online hub committed to the claim that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ has implications for the entire world.

<http://inallthings.org/to-engage-creation/>

Keywords

In All Things, creation, suffering, science, technology

Disciplines

Christianity | Engineering

Comments

In All Things is a publication of the [Andreas Center for Reformed Scholarship and Service at Dordt College](#).

To Engage Creation

 [inallthings.org/to-engage-creation/](https://allinallthings.org/to-engage-creation/)

Joel Sikkema Justin Vander Werff

As creatures made in God's image, we have been tasked to represent the Lord in His creation. In this creational mandate, we're guided by words such as work, keep, subdue, and have dominion (Genesis 1:28 and 2:15). An engineer's role in this service is to use science and technology to care for the entirety of creation — humans, other creatures, and the natural environment — in a way that both develops its potential and ensures that our activities do not impair its ability to flourish in the future. With responsible application of tools and design techniques, the creation can be opened up to serve the Lord in innovative ways. Consider that without our intervention trees declare the glory of God (Isaiah 44). However, with engineering these trees can serve in new ways by being transformed into homes and barns that provide shelter for humans and livestock.

Certainly, creation's development would still occur even if Christians were not involved. However, without Christian engineers the current trends toward humanistic (e.g., saving the world through our engineering abilities) or naturalistic (e.g., preserving the non-human creation in a form uninfluenced by humans) motivations would dominate. As we engage the field of engineering, we can work to influence the path of development in ways that obey the Lord's commands.

Engineers also have a responsibility to ease the effects of sin in the world. When we fell into sin, our actions not only damaged our relationship with God, but also had profound impact on creation. For example, Romans 8 reads that because of our fall, "the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly," and that now "the whole creation has been groaning together" under the effects of sin. Although all of creation continues to suffer the effects of the fall, we rejoice in Christ, who is reconciling all things (humankind and the physical creation) through his blood (Colossians 1:20). As we work to apply engineering to ease suffering throughout creation, Christ may be working through us as he eradicates sin.

In recognition of our biblical mandates to engage creation and ease suffering, Christian engineers seek to obediently and normatively glorify God and love our neighbor in an untold number of service areas.