

Title: **Would't the World Be Better Off Without Christianity?**
Text: **Genesis 1:1-27 & Assorted Verses**
Date: **April 7, 2024**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at mercyhillchurch.org.



Big Idea

While acknowledging the wrongs done in the name of Christianity throughout history, we cannot deny the ways our world has been positively shaped by the Christian faith.

1. The Dignity & W_____ of A_____ Peoples

(cf. Genesis 1:26-27, 5:1-3, 9:6, Colossians 3:10, 2 Corinthians 3:18, James 3:9, Colossians 1:15, Romans 8:29, Mark 10:13-16, Matthew 18:1-6, Luke 5:12-16, 7:11-17, 21:1-4. James 2:14-17, Romans 15:1-2)

2. The Development & A_____ of S_____

(cf. Genesis 1:1-25, Job 12:7-10, Psalm 19:1, 96:11-12, Romans 1:20)

Recommended Resources

- The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries by Rodney Stark
- Dominion: How the Christian Revolution Remade the World by Tom Holland
- For the Glory of God: How Monotheism Led to Reformations, Science, Witch-Hunts and the End of Slavery by Rodney Stark
- Equality: The History of An Elusive Idea by Darrin M. McMahon
- Human Accomplishments: The Pursuit of Excellence in the Arts & Sciences, 800 B.C. to 1950 by Charles Murray
- Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Recommended Christian Resources

- Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion by Rebecca McLaughlin
- The Air We Breathe: How We All Came to Believe in Freedom, Kindness, Progress and Equality by Glen Scrivener
- Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope by Esau McCauley
- Biblical Critical Theory: How the Bible's Unfolding Story Makes Sense of Modern Life and Culture by Christopher Watkin



Reflection Questions

- What undergirds your beliefs about the dignity and worth of people? How might the Christian understanding of imago dei (and the example of Jesus) strengthen your beliefs?
- How does looking at history (and Scripture) help you to better reconcile science and faith?
- How might this morning's sermon help you to better see (or defend) how Christianity has been a force for good in our world?
- **Parent Corner:** As you teach and raise your child(ren), what are the foundations you are raising your child(ren) on? What beliefs/values undergird those building blocks for your child(ren)?

W
E
L
C
O
M
E

SCAN TO FILL OUT A



CONNECTION CARD

Give online at mercyhillchurch.org/give or text any amount to 84321 and follow the prompts.

Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

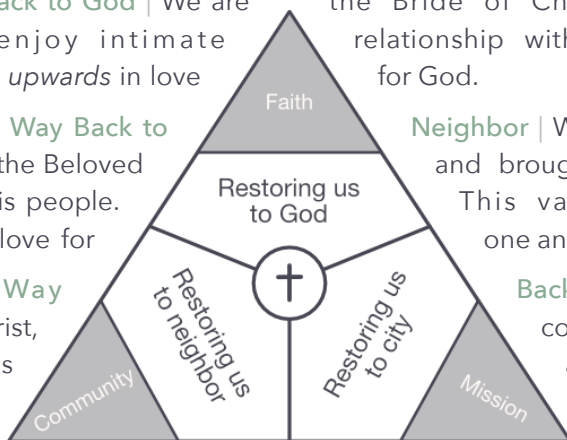
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



Mail: PO Box 23806, San Jose, CA 95153
Phone: (408) 320-7080
Email: info@mercyhillchurch.org
Web: mercyhillchurch.org



Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Hangout - Today!

Meaningful community is hard to find in Silicon Valley, even in the church. Our congregation is spread out all over the city. But there is one day of every week when we all commit to gather together and worship our God: Sunday. It seems strategic to take this pre-existing momentum and work with it in an attempt to develop deeper community within our body. Therefore, on occasional Sundays throughout the year we will invite the church to enjoy picnic-style afternoons together immediately following the service.

The Plan: After service, bring or buy your lunch and join us at the tables out back for a picnic-style afternoon (we may shift inside depending on weather). We'll also open the gym for people to play in!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

All Church Prayer - Tonight!

Scan the QR code below for more info . . .

For clickable content and more announcements,



scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.