

CHRISTIAN VIEWS - ONENESS OF HUMANITY, PEACE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1, NIV)

"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:16)

"As Christians we must treat nature as having value in itself and exercise dominion without being destructive." (Matt. 6:26, 10:29)

Since man was told to cultivate and keep the garden, we certainly may use nature, but only as God intends (**Gen. 2:15**). An example is the parable of the talents (**Matt. 25:15**). Technology puts nature to man's use, but unnecessary pollution and waste degrades nature.

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." (Romans 12:5)

Thus there is a mutual interdependency of every individual with every other individual. Every member of that body supplies some certain element which every other member needs.

"Today, more than ever, it is necessary to create a global economic, political order, founded on clear moral rules, to ensure that the aim of international relations is to seek the common good of the planet." Pope John Paul (12th March 1999)

*"That passage in Genesis ("...be fruitful and multiply; fill and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.") was never meant to be interpreted as a dominion of exploitation but rather a dominion similar to the dominion of God, which is one of loving kindness and compassion." Rev. Harper
www.faithstreams.com*

The Norwegian Sophie Prize 2002 was awarded to one of the worlds most prominent religious leaders, His All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and the Ecumenical Patriarch. The jury and board of the Sophie Foundation underlined his pioneering efforts in linking faith to the environment. *"His leadership has managed to raise the environmental awareness of 300 million members of Orthodox Churches and challenged religious leaders of all faiths to do the same,"* says Chairperson Elin Enge of the Sophie Foundation.

