

A Dialogue On Global Warming  
New York – March 16, 2017

1. As you understand it, what is global warming and its consequences?
  - a. What evidence do you see that our planet is warming?
  - b. See definition
2. In general, most scientists agree that our planet is warming. What they disagree upon is the cause of the warmth. Some say, it is a normal part of our planet's life cycle while others suggest it is due primarily to human activity. On which side of the fence do you sit?
3. Biblical perspective:
  - a. In the article, "Global Warming A Biblical View" Steven Deaton declares the following verses refer to global warming.
    - i. One generation passes away, and another generation comes; but the earth abides forever. Ecc 1:4
    - ii. (5) The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. (6) The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. (7) All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again. Ecc 1:5-7
    - iii. Genesis 1:1-32 ...Creation account, too long to quote.
    - iv. Upon disembarking the ark, Noah declared "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. Gen 8:22.
      1. What point is Steven making by citing these verses?
      2. Do you agree or disagree with his thinking?
      3. From your own reading of Scripture, what verses or passages in the Bible, if any, address global warming?
  - b. A second article I sent you, author unknown, answers the question, "How should a Christian view climate change? What does the Bible say about climate change?"
    - i. He or she reminds us that God will one day replace our universe with a New Heaven and Earth (Rev 21-22).
    - ii. He/she then follows that with a question, "How much effort should be made saving a planet that God is eventually going to obliterate and replace with a planet so amazing and wonderful that the current earth pales in comparison?"
      1. What is the author saying/implies?
      2. What are your thoughts concerning what he/she is saying/implies?
    - iii. This author later declared, "As Christians, our focus should be proclaiming the truth of the gospel the message that has the power to save souls. Saving the planet is not within our power or responsibility."
      1. Do you agree/disagree with what our focus should be?
      2. If you disagree, why?
4. In light of the many views and controversies Global Warming has generated, is there anything we can agree upon/do about global warming?

Global warming is the term used to describe a gradual increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and its oceans, a change that is believed to be permanently changing the Earth's climate. There is great debate among many people, and sometimes in the news, on whether global warming is real (some call it a hoax). But climate scientists looking at the data and facts agree the planet is warming. While many view the effects of global warming to be more substantial and more rapidly occurring than others do, the scientific consensus on climatic changes related to global warming is that the average temperature of the Earth has risen between 0.4 and 0.8 °C over the past 100 years. The increased volumes of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases released by the burning of fossil fuels, land clearing, agriculture, and other human activities, are believed to be the primary sources of the global warming that has occurred over the past 50 years. Scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate carrying out global warming research have recently predicted that average global temperatures could increase between 1.4 and 5.8 °C by the year 2100. Changes resulting from global warming may include rising sea levels due to the melting of the polar ice caps, as well as an increase in occurrence and severity of storms and other severe weather events.

<http://www.livescience.com/topics/global-warming?type=article> (Accessed, Feb 27, 2017)