

Each week of 2019 we will take a brief look at one or two questions from the Westminster Shorter Catechism. To read previous weeks' briefs go to [oakhillpca.com/wsc](http://oakhillpca.com/wsc)

Q. 9. What is the work of creation?

A. *The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.*

Q. 10. How did God create man?

A. *God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.*

God does all that he does for his own glory (the why). He accomplishes all that he does through "the works of creation and providence" (the how). Now the catechism asks about "what" are these works. While creation is a massive topic, literally and metaphorically, it gets only two questions in the Shorter Catechism. This simple statement about God's creation, though, is packed with huge significance.

1. *God makes all things.* Nothing exists apart from God. Therefore, everything exists for God's glory and purposes.

2. *God made everything from nothing.* The Latin phrase, *ex nihilo*, is often used to emphasize that God used no matter, substance, or materials to work with in creation. When speaking about theories of origins of the world, the biblical belief is that nothing existed prior to God's work.

3. *God's word has creative power.* God spoke and things appeared. This is significant when we think about the nature of God's word today. "The word of God is living and active" (Heb. 4:12). God's word continues to have creative power in our hearts and lives as he makes us a new creation in Christ.

4. *God created everything in an orderly manner.* "In the space of six days" echoes the words and structure of Genesis 1. God was very orderly and purposeful in creation.

5. *All God created was "very good."* God did not create a fallen, evil, sin-filled world. God's creation was pure, beautiful, and good. The hope of restoration is rooted in God's original, good creation.

6. *God made males and females to reflect his nature and character and rule.* God makes humans unique and special compared to the rest of creation. We are made in his image. This means that we are relational, and males and females are complementarian, reflecting the persons of the Trinity. We reflect God's moral character as his law is written on the hearts of man. And we reflect the rule of God in creation as his "vice-regents."