

the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

The idea that Christians are to have dominion has licensed them, charges White, to be arrogant and exploitive toward the rest of creation. Of course, I think Lynn White is confused about the Christian meaning of dominion. When we are called to have dominion over the earth, we are called primarily to oversee and protect God's creation. We are stewards, caretakers of the earth, not owners of it.


We Friends need now a stewardship that enables us to appreciate the whole creation. We need the mind of the psalmist, who understood God's creative power operating throughout the universe. "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels, praise him all his host! Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!" (Psalm 148:1-4)

The Apostle Paul also realized that Christ's love is expressed in all parts of the universe. The whole created order is an unfolding of God's mind in Christ. "He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities — all things were created through him and for him." (Colossians 1:15-17)

At the heart of Friends ministry today should be the concern stated by Marion Baumgardner, a deeply committed Christian and space scientist working at Purdue University: "No final reconciliation can occur among all peoples until man is reconciled with the rest of God's creation."<sup>2</sup> Likewise we can never be at one with Christ as long as we destroy either natural beauty or human beauty, or while only a small percentage of the world's people wastefully uses the greatest percentage of energy and the other resources of creation.

Part of Christ's plan of salvation is that we find unity with His creation. He has taken the initiative by giving us minds to create earth resources satellites. He has revealed ways that we might feed

the hungry masses. He has shown us the means to create energy from the atom. God himself has bridged the gap of the known and the unknown. He has done it in many ways and in many cultures. But He has revealed himself fully by sending himself in human form. He has identified with us in our framework in the person of Jesus Christ so that we might be

united with Him eternally in His framework. And He invites us to be responsible stewards now in His saving ministry. As responsible stewards Friends will seek wise use of the technology God has given us. We will apply it to feed the hungry, minister to the sick, and heal our ruptured relationship with the environment and God's whole creation. 

## *Contemporary Queries on the Spiritual Basis for Right Sharing of World Resources*

Following a serious and searching conference, Jennifer Haines prepared the following as statements for a gathering of Friends discussing the right sharing of world resources. They merit prayerful consideration by Quakers everywhere.

1. Do you love God above all things, holding to no possession as tightly as you hold to God's service? Are you laying up for yourself "treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal," or are you laying up "treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal"? (Matthew 6:19-20)

2. Do you continue to examine your needs, looking always for ways to reduce them, to live more simply, and to use resources more sparingly? Do you take joy in having less rather than in having more?

3. Do you love your neighbor as yourself, seeking his/her happiness as diligently as you seek your own? Are you feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, taking in the stranger, clothing the naked, and visiting the sick and imprisoned, the world over?

4. Do you serve and share out of the experience of God in the center of your life, making your whole life an expression of God's will through you? Do you continue undaunted in the face of great problems, trusting God to guide you to your own best service?


5. Do you look on, those in need as God's children, as richly endowed by Him as you are, with much of value to give and teach you? Do you consider whether you have service to give abroad, and, if so, do you give it in this spirit?

6. Do you think of setting aside for the needs of others before spending for yourself? Do you tithe or otherwise give regularly to development needs?

7. Are you careful of your stewardship over God's earth, using its resources wisely and conserving them for future generations? Is your life in harmony with your finite and delicately balanced planet?

8. Are you educating yourself about the world situation so that your sharing can be of real help in areas of genuine need, rather than a palliative, or the cause of well-intentioned harm?

9. Do you continue to try to educate others about the world's needs and the changes in the lives of the affluent that are called for? Are your life and work an example for others of wise resource use and sharing?

10. Are you working to change the economic, social, and political systems that perpetuate injustice and poverty, concentrating power and wealth in the hands of the few at the expense of the many? Are you working for just global systems of resource use and sharing? 

2. David Kingrey and Marion Baumgardner, *Now Is Tomorrow* (Richmond, Ind.: Friends United Press, 1976), p. 86.