

the **GRAND** narrative



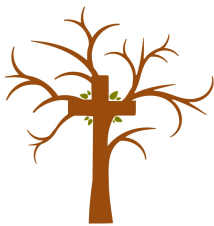
creation

The biblical story tells us that God created and sustains all things. God gave us life and controls all things. He made mankind to have special relationship with him and gave mankind his creation mandate, which directs human life. The creation is good and this not only refers to the physical and biological creation, but also to the cultural strands that God has woven into its fabric. Here the focus is on what God intended things to be like, the way it ought to have been.



fall

The biblical story tells us that all things have fallen, as a result of sin, and that every part of the world is twisted by evil. The consequence is pain and suffering, brokenness and idolatry. Therefore all things, human life and culture, have become distorted and shaped by idolatry. The widespread effects of sin are obvious but God is still faithful and promises liberation from this bondage to decay.



redemption

The biblical story tells us that although mankind fell into sin, God had a plan of redemption through the sacrifice of his Son. Christ came to earth to restore creation from the distorting influence of sin and redeem all things so that we could get back on track with God's original design/purpose. Through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, the power of sin has been dealt with. Now, as redeemed people, we look forward to, and participate in, the restoration of the whole creation.



restoration

The biblical story tells us that we are called to live in the light of this coming renewal as faithful servants responding to God's invitation to work towards ongoing redemption – as we fulfill our original mandate to take care of and develop his creation. God is sovereign in his ongoing work of redemption and calls us to join him as his redemption people – God's agents of renewal. In response to Christ's past and ongoing redemptive work, and with the active presence of the Holy Spirit, we can gratefully respond by living a life of service and partnership as all things move towards complete restoration. This will not be fully realized until Christ returns, when all things will be fulfilled. One of our tasks while we are here on earth is to set up signposts that point others to the coming kingdom.