

Loving the Least of These: Addressing a Changing Environment

Executive Summary

Overview

"Loving the Least of These: Addressing a Changing Environment" is an updated report showing how climate change impacts the world's most vulnerable. The 2022 report explores the biblical basis for Christian engagement, the science of climate change, how climate change affects the poor, and practical ways to move forward. Each section includes a reflection from an expert and a real life example from someone working on the issues.

Section 1: A Biblical Basis for Christian Engagement

Evangelicals look to the Bible for guidance in all areas of life. Though the Bible does not tell us specifically how to evaluate scientific reports or respond to a changing environment, it does offer several helpful principles: Care for creation, love our neighbors and witness to the world. Bishop Timothy Clarke shares why climate change is an issue the faith community must address.



Section 2: A Changing Environment

This section looks at the science underlying our understanding of climate, discusses research about the future of Earth's climate, considers how to untangle scientific controversies, and includes the perspective of a Christian climate scientist, Thomas Ackerman. Mitch Hescox and Jessica Moerman describe the impact of warming and air pollution on children's health.

Section 3: How Climate Affects People in Poverty

This section details how climate change affects people in poverty, discussing natural disasters, health outcomes, adaption and mitigation costs, conflicts, and displacement, among other issues. Christopher Shore, Jenny Yang and Lanre Williams-Ayedun share what they have experienced in other parts of the world.

Section 4: What Should We Do?

The threats we face are real, and the needs can feel overwhelming. Christians can respond in many ways through both individual and collective action, including in areas of discipleship, supporting others' work, stewardship and advocacy. As an advocate, Galen Carey lists seven practical ways to make a difference.

**The National Association of Evangelicals first published "Loving the Least of These: Addressing a Changing Environment" in 2011. This revised and updated second edition is published in collaboration with the Evangelical Environmental Network and World Relief.*

