

# The Wonder of Creation

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Q. What is creation?

A. Creation is God's making everything out of nothing by His powerful word in six days—and all very good.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism #9)

*“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”*

(Hebrews 11:3)

In our home on our refrigerator there is a collection of some of the most precious works of fine art in all of human history. Ok, so maybe that statement is a little subjectively biased. Let me try and clarify what I've just written a little bit. There IS art attached to our refrigerator, and it IS precious...but...it's mostly only precious to me and my wife. You see, on our refrigerator is an assortment of art projects that were designed by our three-year-old son. Maybe the phrase “*fine art*” was a bit of an exaggeration, but they are definitely valuable to us as parents! If you were to peruse our refrigerator doors, you would find coloring book pages scribbled over with a variety of crayons as well as the finest popsicle art this side of Northern Florida. And don't even get me started on my sons' playdough skills...it is simply off the charts!

Over the years my son has **made** many things (*if you were to ask my wife she would probably say that his specialty is in making messes!*), but in the midst of all the things that he has **made**, I would argue that he has never actually **created** anything. Why do I say that? How could I say that my son has never **created** anything? What about all that art on our refrigerator? What is the difference between “*making*” something and “*creating*” something? If you were to look up the word “*creation*” in the dictionary, you would find a definition that would read something like this: *Creation is the act or process of bringing something into existence.* In other words, to truly “*create*” a person would need to be able to cause something to come into BEING. To create something is to cause something to have *ontological* status (*the state of being*), and as human beings I would argue that we do not in fact have that ability. No human being has the ability or the capacity to cause something to come into being out of nothing. In fact, as human beings, all we have the ability to do is *rearrange* that which already *exists*. Think about my son's art projects for instance. When he set out to draw or paint a picture, he had to go into the art drawer and pull out the paint, the paper, the brushes and the markers and only then could he proceed to *rearrange* those materials in such a way that he could make his art. If you stop and think about it, no human being has the ability to “*create*” in the strict use of that word, since no man or woman has the

ability to cause something to come into being out of nothing. All human beings are capable of doing is rearranging and organizing that which already exists.

Herein lies the great difference between human beings and God. Whereas we can only arrange, rearrange or synthesize preexisting materials, God transcends our abilities by having the power to create "*ex nihilo*" (*out of nothing*). The writer of Hebrews tells us that, "*By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*" (Hebrews 11:3). Our catechism teaches us that, "*Creation is God's making everything out of nothing...*". God is the only person in the universe who can create something out of nothing. He is the only One who can bring life into *existence*. He is the only one who can cause something to come into *being*. When God created the world, He didn't simply go into a cosmic art drawer and grab preexisting materials with which to make the universe. He created the world and everything in it "*ex nihilo*" simply "*by His powerful word...*" as our catechism tell us. And if that isn't amazing enough to leave you in awe and wonder, our catechism ends by saying that all of God's creative work was done "*in six days—and all very good.*" Stop and praise the Lord for His good work of creation!

## Dig Even Deeper into God's Word!

Psalm 33:6,9

Genesis 1:1

Genesis 1:31