

## Existential Risk and Responsibility: A Theological Examination of Anthropogenic Climate Change

Anthropogenic climate change presents humanity with a crisis that transcends scientific and political boundaries, posing an existential risk that necessitates deep ethical and theological reflection on human responsibility. Traditional theological anthropologies, often centered on the concept of 'dominion' over nature derived from foundational texts, have historically been critiqued for fostering an exploitative relationship with the environment. Contemporary theology, however, is increasingly reinterpreting these concepts through the lens of stewardship and *oikonomia* (household management), urging a radical re-evaluation of humanity's role as interconnected caretakers within creation rather than detached rulers.

Theological examinations of existential risk focus on the moral imperative to act in the face of irreversible global catastrophe, particularly concerning justice for future generations and vulnerable populations. The concept of sin is recontextualized not merely as individual transgression, but as structural or collective sin rooted in unsustainable economic systems and patterns of consumption that disproportionately harm the world's poor and marginalized. This framework mandates a theological response that emphasizes repentance, not just as a spiritual act, but as a tangible commitment to ecological conversion—a profound change in lifestyle, policy, and relationality with the natural world that aligns with the preservation of life.

Ultimately, the theological response to climate change is a call for hope grounded in action. It rejects passive resignation and instead advocates for the development of an ecological eschatology, where humanity actively works toward a just and sustainable future—a 'new creation'—through immediate, sacrificial efforts. This requires mobilizing faith communities to engage in political advocacy, adopt sustainable practices, and cultivate virtues like humility, simplicity, and intergenerational solidarity. The examination serves to re-anchor the environmental crisis within a spiritual narrative, providing both the ethical urgency and the moral resources necessary for collective planetary survival.