

Creation Order versus Evolutionary Chaos¹

Gerrit Glas²

The literal translation of this brief article is “Is our Reality Chaotic or Not?” During the International Congress that is being organized, the concept of creation order is a central focus. On the face of it, this may sound like a boring subject. But when you think about it, it’s really quite a different situation. The founders of Reformational Philosophy have not accorded such an important place to the creation order for nothing.

This concept means two things. First, reality has been creation and does not owe its existence to itself. Secondly, it points out that reality displays a certain order. These two ideas have as their Christian foundation the fact that God has created the world and that He did not place the human race in an unpredictable and chaotic world, but in a cosmos in which humans are the centre.

This idea of an orderly not self-sufficient reality is contested today. Evolutionary biologists posit that whatever order there is, is purely by chance. The reason humans are at home in this world is the result of many millions of years of evolutionary process that has resulted in a selection of attributes that were favourable for adjusting and survival. But this process could just as well have taken a different direction. The existing order of reality is not a response to an order pre-existing in the Spirit of God.

The concept of creation order is also under fire from the social sciences and postmodern thought about culture. Has an appeal to orderings not legitimated all sorts of social abuses? Is social order not just something upon which we agree upon among ourselves? Do universal principles for the ordering of society really exist or are these principles dependent on place, time and culture? How

¹Gerrit Glas, “*Is onze werkelijkheid chaotisch of niet?*” Transl. Jan H. Boer. *Aspecten*, July, 2011.

²Gerrit Glas was the Chairman of a commission organizing an international congress on “The Future of Creation Order,” sponsored by the Association for Reformational Philosophy and the Foundation for Christian Philosophy in the Netherlands. The congress was held 16-19 August, 2011, at the Free University of Amsterdam. For further details you can go to < www.christelijkefilosofie.nl >.

can we in our social relationships appeal to norms that have a validity above what people amongst themselves conceive and agree upon?

The Congress aims to find answers to these question and to think through the practical significance of these answer on the various spheres of life, such as ethics, education, public administration and politics, end the world of management and leadership.

This all will occur by having thinkers of the Reformational philosophical tradition dialogue with representatives of other traditions, whether Christian or not. During the nine plenary lectures, all important cultural areas wherein questions of creation order arise, will be on the agenda. There will be an opportunity to dig deeper into aspects of the subject in which you are involved during the many workshops (more than sixty!) and seminars that will be held the day before the Congress itself. Participants from 33 countries have already registered.

You will find more information, also of a practical nature, on the Congress website: < www.cpc2011.org >. You are invited to consult this site even now that you are reading this material after the Congress is long history.