

Defending Your Faith: Climatism

Forestgate Presbyterian Church ~ August 5, 2012

Climatism is the belief that human activity is both _____ and _____ in its effect on global climate—man’s activity is literally changing the whole planet for the worse.

The predictions are so dire we must act _____. Delay could make it _____ to reverse the trend and save the planet.

- Why should we care about saving the planet (or any portion thereof)?
- What is being assumed about the longevity of the planet?
- What is being assumed about the natural resources of the planet?

The only viable solution to the climate problem is to drastically _____ the use of carbon-based fuels. We must accept a lower _____ of living in order to save the planet.

- What is being assumed about the value of human life?

Manmade climate change is not even a _____ theory. Consequently, it cannot be _____.

There are at least three huge leaps of inference:

1. man has a significant effect on the level of atmospheric CO₂
2. atmospheric CO₂ has a significant effect on average global temperature
3. average global temperature has a significant effect on extreme weather events

The nested nature of the theory makes it even more difficult to support; there is no way to empirically test these premises—i.e., none can be supported either by direct observation or experimentation.

When scientists acknowledge “natural” causes for past climate variation but assign all current variation to man’s activity, they are being _____.

One of the most juvenile mistakes in science is to confuse _____ with _____. This is what scientists do by claiming that the Industrial Revolution is causing the climate variation we see now. (Causation has a much higher burden of proof.)

CO₂ constitutes a tiny fraction of the atmosphere (0.036%; usually measured in *parts per million*):

- CO₂ is an essential component of the biological life cycle—it is NOT a hazardous pollutant as EPA now claims
- CO₂ has varied considerably in the past (somehow we survived)
- historically, CO₂ appears to lag temperature by about 400 years (it cannot lag the effect it is causing)
- even if CO₂ preceded temperature change, it could not be conclusively stated as a causal factor
- for comparison, Argon constitutes 0.93% of the atmosphere—26 times higher than CO₂!

Anyone who disagrees with the dogma of manmade climate change is labeled “skeptic” or “denier”—this is an attempt to silence the opposition by shame (there is no scientific argument)

When we oppose *climatism*, we are not denying any of the following:

- climate changes over time
- man has *some* effect on climate
- CO₂ levels are related to global temperature

Questions rarely asked:

1. how do we know that we can change the course of global climate? (scientific question)
2. should we be willing to spend trillions of dollars to try? (moral question)
3. what should the temperature of the earth be?
4. can we control individual weather events?
5. what are the advantages of a warmer planet?
6. how did everything survive the Medieval Warm Period?
7. when has the temperature of the earth ever been static?
8. should we attempt to interfere with natural climate variation?

What other hysterical claims are being made?

1. polar ice caps are melting
2. oceans are rising
3. oceans are becoming more acidic; the coral reefs will die and dissolve
4. glaciers are receding
5. plants and animals are being driven from their habitats; many will become extinct

What are the implications of manmade global warming?

1. man destroying planet
2. man bad
3. earth better off without man → population control

How has the story has changed over the last 40 years?

- in the 70's we were bracing for the next Ice Age
- starting in the 80's we were facing runaway warming
- since the late-90's we've been facing extreme weather events

Notice how the rhetoric has changed from “global cooling” (70s) to “global warming” (80s-90s) to “climate change” (00s)

“Climate change” is the homerun buzzword: climate always changes, and people can't tell the difference between natural variation and something unusual—therefore, every weather event becomes *de facto* “proof” of climate change—cold, hot, wet, or dry

We tend to believe that current weather patterns are “extreme” because we have a _____ — our own lifetime is the frame of reference.

The use of terminology like “_____” is very misleading; “records” are relative to the interval of observation.

In reality, the amount of temperature is humanly undetectable—1/2 degree in 30 years!

You can tell any story you want to with graphs and “statistics”