

# Serving Society

## Compassion and Justice

- “Teaching them to observe *all that I have commanded you*”
- Deut. 10:12-19 - to be like God in compassion and justice for the needy (as God had done for Israel)
- Matt. 5:6; 6:33;
- Matt. 23:23, “justice, mercy, and faithfulness”
- Mic. 6:8, “do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God”

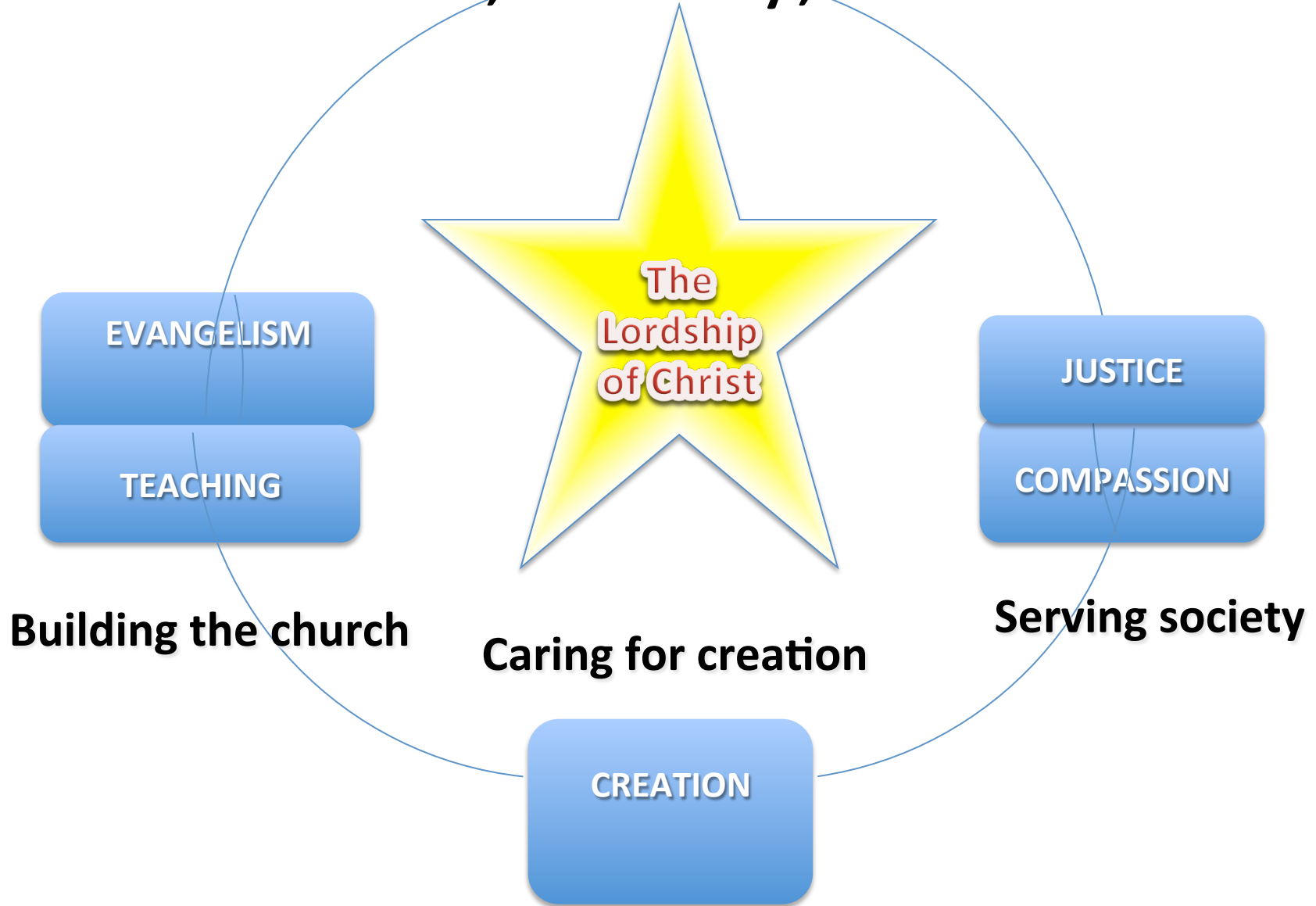
# *The Mission of God's People:*

- Who are we and what are we here for?
- Gen. 18:19      Walking in the way of the LORD,  
doing righteousness and justice
- Ex. 19:6      Priestly and holy, in midst of the  
nations
- Lev. 18:1-5; 19      Distinctive from the nations
- Deut. 4:6-8      Visible to the nations
- 1 Kgs. 8:41-43, 60-61      Attractive to the nations

# “You are the light of the world”

- Light shines from people committed to compassion and justice. Isa. 58:7-8, 10
- Apostles and early church were committed to obeying the teaching of Jesus, as well as preaching the gospel about Jesus.
  - Acts 4:32-38 (cf. Deut. 15:4)
  - Gal. 2:10 (“remember the poor”)
  - Titus (“doing good”, 8 times)
  - James 2:14-17 (faith and works)
- *Cape Town Commitment I.10.a*

# Church, Society, Creation



# Caring for creation

- Matt. 28:18 - Jesus is Lord of “heaven *and earth*” = all creation. Cf. Deut. 4:39.
- Col. 1:15-20 - whole universe is created by and for Christ, sustained by Christ, and redeemed by Christ (cf. also Jn. 1, Heb. 1)
- We cannot separate our personal submission to Christ as Lord from our use of creation.

*“We cannot claim to love God while abusing what belongs to Christ by right of creation, redemption and inheritance. We care for the earth and responsibly use its abundant resources, not according to the rationale of the secular world, but for the Lord’s sake. If Jesus is Lord of all the earth, we cannot separate our relationship to Christ from how we act in relation to the earth. For to proclaim the gospel that says ‘Jesus is Lord’ is to proclaim the gospel that includes the earth, since Christ’s Lordship is over all creation.”*

Cape Town Commitment 1.7.a

# The goodness of creation

- Creation is good in relation to God
  - It belongs to God (Deut.10:14; Ps. 24:1)
  - It reveals God (Ps. 19; 50:6; Acts 14:17; Rom.1:20)
  - It is valued by God for itself (Gen. 1:31)
- Creation is good in relation to us
  - Made in God's image (Gen.1) - to rule (in God's way)
  - Placed in the garden (Gen.2:15) – to serve and to keep

# The glory of creation

- God's glory through the praise of creation
  - Pss. 145, 148, 150; Rev. 5:13
- God's glory in the fullness of creation
  - Ps. 104:31; Isa. 6:3
- Whatever destroys creation diminishes God's praise and glory



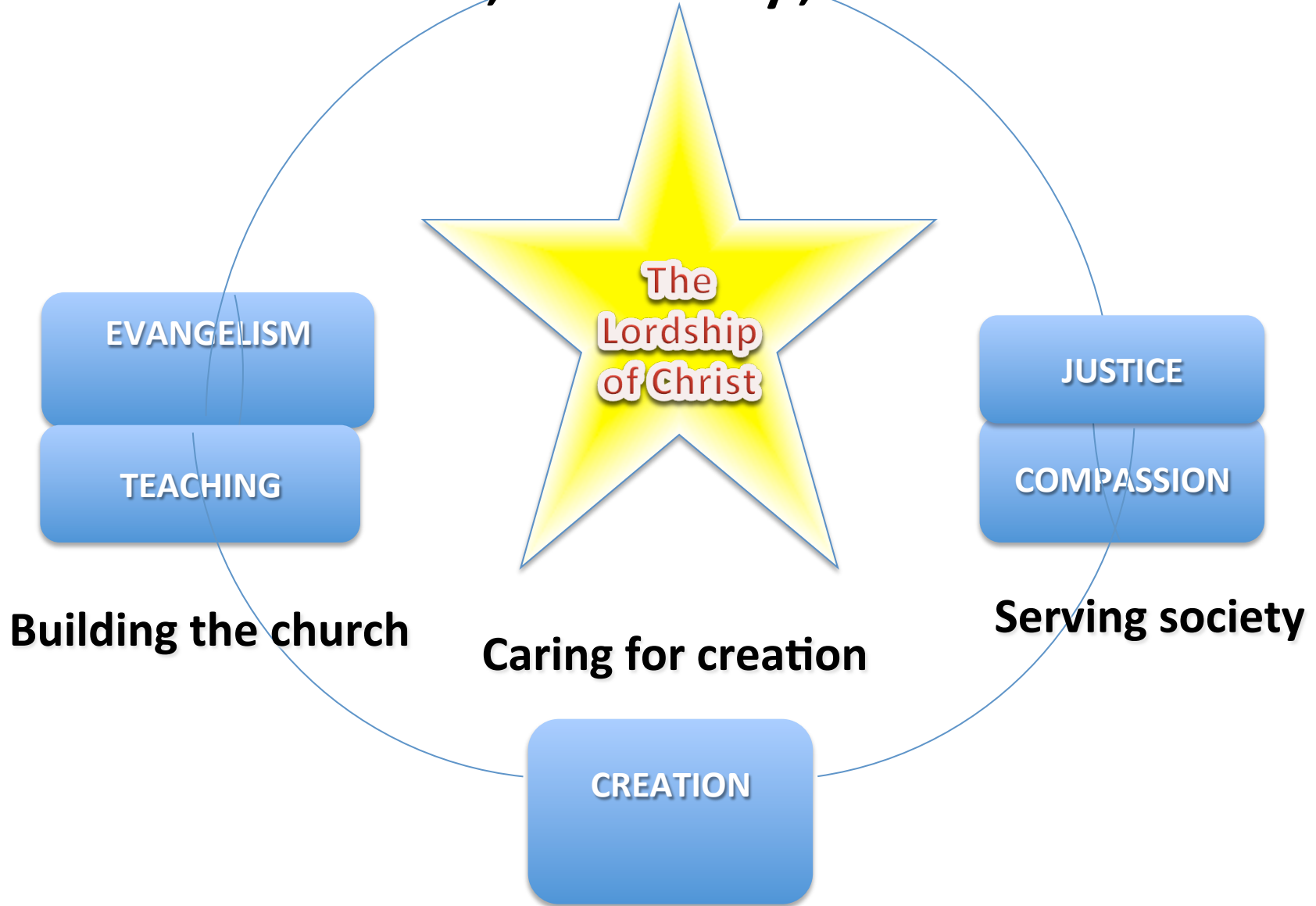
# The goal of creation

- All creation is included in God's plan of redemption through the cross and resurrection of Christ.
  - Isa. 65:17-25 - new heavens and new earth
  - Ps. 96:10-13 – rejoicing of all creation
  - Rom. 8:18-21 – birthing of new creation
  - Col. 1:20 - creation reconciled through the cross
  - 2 Pet. 3:10-13 – purging, not obliteration

# The goal of creation

- Our final destination!
  - Rev. 21:1-4. Not just ‘heaven’, but new creation
  - Rev. 7:9, 21:24-26. The glory of all human cultures, languages and civilizations – purged and purified – brought into the City of God.

# Church, Society, Creation



# So what?

- God's whole mission is for God's whole church
  - But *everybody* can't do *everything*
- The whole church's mission includes every church member
  - But we have different callings and sendings
- Every member's mission includes the whole of life.
  - Jesus is Lord – of all.