

# Sacred or secular?

The ancient Greeks said the material world was evil but the intellectual and spiritual world was good.

So manual labour came to be seen as inferior because of its involvement with the material world. By contrast, philosophy, scholastics and spirituality were seen as a purer, more sacred realm.

Instead of seeing the beauty and wonder of Creation as evil, here is our Christian answer –

**First**, we believe that the material universe cannot be evil because *a holy God* created it. In the description of the material world (Genesis chapter 1) the phrase “God saw that it was good” is repeated several times. And at the end of God's creative activity we read, “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed it was very good.” Genesis 1.31.

**Second**, God the Son was not ashamed to intimately link himself with the material world – he “became flesh and dwelt among us”! John 1.14.

**Third**, he gave his human body as a sacred sacrifice on behalf of all mankind. He “himself bore our sins *in his own body* on the tree.” 1 Peter 2.24.

Jesus showed how appropriate it is to convey tremendous spiritual blessing through material things.

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**Through resurrection, the heavenly Father mightily honoured Jesus' material body.  
“This Jesus God has raised up”! Acts 2.32.**

**Ken Packer**