

**Title:** Created in God's Image

**Passage:** Genesis 1:26-28

### **Introduction**

Today's culture is filled with much confusion about manhood/womanhood, marriage, and identity through a worldview apart from God.

- Culture has a wide spectrum of perspectives:
  - Devoid of God (ex: Sigmund Freud)
  - Uniting with some vague spiritual realm (ex: New Age)
- Response: What does the Bible say and how do we respond?
  - New series of messages reflecting Biblical worldview.

**Passage:** Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

### **EXPOSITION**

#### **Context of Passage:**

Book of Genesis

- Written by Moses
  - Based on God's revelation to him
- Audience: people of Israel who were previously enslaved in Egypt of hundreds of years.
  - Distorted perspective from slavery by which viewed self lowly.

#### **I. God created humankind in a special way.**

Genesis 1:26a

Then God said, "Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness.

*Let us*

- us = plurality in Godhead
  - Include angels? No, God takes no counsel with anything else.
- us = Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit)

Psalms 110:1

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

*In Our Image*

- You are made in the image of the Triune God!
- You are special and by God's design
  - Not merely a product of random chance.
- You came from God,

**Implications:**

***We are not autonomous, independent human beings***

- We are special and still created beings
- We are finite
- The only reason we are alive is because God created us and keeps us alive.

***Man is not God***

- Though created by God, man is not divine nor should seek to become a god.

***Man is obligated to submit to God***

- because God created you, you must submit to God.
- But because of sin, we do not want to submit.

Romans 1:25

because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

**II. Humankind has both unique functional and structural roles.**

***Unique Functional Role of Humans***

*In Our Image*

- meaning = re-presentation
  - Ex: king would place an image of himself to remind people that he was still in charge and in power
- We are called images of God
  - We are created to be God's representatives

*In Our Likeness*

- likeness = shape, pattern
- Humans are made in the same pattern as God
- When see people, see a picture of God

Genesis 5:3

When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

***Unique Structural Role of Humans***

How humans are unique:

- Have a reasonable mind (able to discuss or understand abstract concepts)
- Able to communicate
- Have a soul and spirit (not just physical beings)
- Creative

**Implications:**

***You have infinite dignity and value and worth***

- Why? Because made in God's image and likeness
- Who? All - regardless of age, background, skin color, education, performance, etc.

- You have worth in who God says you are.

### Genesis 9:6

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

### ***Your identity comes from the fact you are made by God***

- You don't have to prove your worth
- You automatically have worth and dignity.
  - Regardless of any disability or limitations or weaknesses
- We are to love our enemies as well because they are also made into the image of God.

Two realms: 1) God and 2) Created Order

- Humans are in-between. We are not God but we are above the created order (animals/plants)
- In sin:
  - we tend to either think we are like God and do whatever we want, or
  - we just follow our instinct like animals.

### **III. God created humankind a purpose to subdue creation and enjoy it.**

#### Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

*God blessed them*

- God is good and His purposes are good.

*subdue it, and have dominion over*

- Humans are to rule and subdue and take care of creation.
- As to value, humans are always more valuable than animal life. They are not equal in value.
- Be mindful to not value animals greater than any humans. Only humans are made in God's image.

*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth*

- We are to disperse and spread God's likeness and image to the world.
- We are called to represent God throughout the earth.
- We are image-bearers of God and to live for His glory.

### **Application**

***Regardless of who you are, you are a unique human being created by God in an intentional way to represent Him and His image on this earth.***

#### Psalms 139:13-16

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

- You are specially and wonderfully made!
  - You are not an accident!
- Life cannot start without God's intervention.
- Your identity matters in God's eyes.

### Romans 8:28-29

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

***Sin has marred our true understanding of humanhood. But Jesus came to be the true image of God; He embodies who we are to be. We look to Jesus to understand the ultimate model.***

- Jesus came to live the life we could never live.
- He died so we can be in a loving relationship with God.

### Colossians 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

### Hebrews 1:3

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

***Because you are created in God's image, we should stand firm against any medical procedure that would kill human life (abortion, euthanasia)***

- Human life begins at conception (it's not merely a "fetus" but a baby!)
- Human life remains valuable at all stages of life.

### 1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

***We should fight against any traces of racism in our lives and in the church.***

- Everyone has great human dignity and value regardless of one's color and skin or origin (ex: tribes, geographic regions).
- But be careful to entertain ideas that carries oppressive responsibilities (ask forgiveness for things you haven't done).
- Promote Biblical racial reconciliation rather than secular ideas.
- Consider how to be inclusive whether from different country or background.
- Treat everyone with equal dignity and value.

### Hebrews 13:1-2

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

***We are called to create a God-centered culture where He places us.***

- Stay in and on God's Word.
  - Don't jump on the bandwagon's of the culture
- Be mindful always aligned with God's Word.

### Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.