

GENESIS

Why The Beginning Matters

Study 3

Man- The Image of God

Genesis 1:26-31

Part 1 of 4: Men are to Reflect God

Verse 26-27

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

1) a) Objective question. Select all that apply. Which of the metaphors and imagery were used in the video slides and lecture to explain what it means to reflect?

- A. Photo
- B. Mirror
- C. Moon
- D. Water
- E. A father and son

Quick Verse Reference

Gen 5:3

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

b) Objective question. Select all that apply. According to the video lecture, which of the following are the human capabilities that enable us to resemble God?

- A. Character
- B. Creativity
- C. Rationality
- D. Personality

- E. Jealousy
- F. Understanding
- G. Selfishness
- H. Self-awareness
- I. Moral conscience
- J. Memory
- K. Will
- L. Physical looks

c) Objective question. Select all that apply. According to the video lecture, which of the following area are humans supposed to reflect God's glory?

- A. Our activities
- B. Our motivations
- C. Our achievements
- D. Our looks
- E. Our values
- F. Our goals
- G. Our diet
- H. Our works
- I. Our purpose
- J. Our emotions
- K. Our number of children (God only had one son)
- L. Our gender

d) Discussion question. What happens when one seeks the wrong type of glory?

John 5:44

How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

Psalm 115:7-8

They have hands, but cannot feel,
feet, but cannot walk,
nor can they utter a sound with their throats.
Those who make them will be like them,

and so will all who trust in them.

Part 2 of 4: Men are to Represent God

Verse 26

Genesis 1:26 (ESV)

Then God said, "Let us make man[a] 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." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2) Objective question. Choose the most appropriate. Which of the following is FALSE?

- A. From last time till now, statues or portraits of kings or leaders are placed to represent their authority
- C. In the ancient world, statues of these kings were actually a meeting place between the supernatural world and the current world
- D. Gen 9:6 states that humans shall not be murdered because they represent God, like diplomatic immunity protects their citizens in another country
- E. Humans are to dominate and control other humans
- F. First commission is the multiplication and dominion of all creation by Adam, the great commission is the spreading of the gospel and dominion of all nations by Jesus.

Background Information

"The rulers of the ancient Near East set up images and statues of themselves in places where

they exercised or claimed to exercise authority. The images represented the ruler himself as symbols of his presence and authority...”

–J.A.Motyer, Look to the Rock

Part 3 of 4: Men are to Relate to God

3) Objective question. Choose the most appropriate. Which of the following is FALSE about relating to God?

- A. We are made to have a relationship with God and to seek Him out.
- B. The trinity already had each other before humans were created, so they already know how to love before the creation of mankind.
- C. God created humans to discover what love is like
- D. Love comes first, God’s aim in creation is to give himself. His very self is found in giving, hence He seeks to share Himself and express Himself and express goodness.

Acts 17:26

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

Part 4 of 4: Climax of Creation

Verse 1-3

Genesis 2:1-3

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

4) Objective question. Choose the most appropriate. Which of the following is FALSE about rest on the seventh day?

- A. God rested because He is tired
- B. It is the rest of a finished achievement, not the rest of inactivity, God’s activities go on because God continues to nurture His creation.
- C. God delights, rests, and enjoys the benefits of His finished work
- D. Sabbath day parallel’s God’s rest day.

E. Keeping the Sabbath day helps remove yourself from everyday things, possessions, and rules and to refocus on God and being the image of God. That is why Jesus saved humans even on the Sabbath.

Matthew 11:28-29

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Takeaway for Genesis 1:3-26-2:3

Men are to reflect, represent, relate to, and rest in God.

Case Study

Case 1

Jenny was struggling with her teenage daughter Kari who came home from school having been told that she should explore her own sexual feelings for the same sex and to question her own gender. Her teacher told her that there was no such thing as a fixed gender and that she should be true to her own self and feelings. The most important thing is to be authentic. Kari reasoned that she loved to play football with the boys and even video war games which was a very male thing to do. She liked to keep her hair short. Perhaps she is part male after all.

- 1) Discussion question. Why can't Kari be gender fluid or even transgender? What is wrong with it?**
- 2) Discussion question. What harm can it do to the community if everyone is allowed to be their true selves?**
- 3) Discussion question. What is the definition of our true selves? Why is that important?**
- 4) Discussion question. What role do gender stereotypes play in our family/? Are they biblical? Should we be controlled by gender stereotypes that society dictates for us like boys wear blue and girls wear pink or play with dolls? Why can't we let our boys play with dolls?**

Case 2

Elizabeth came home from her youth group and was disturbed about their discussion on which side of the political divide should the Christian young woman be involved in, feminism or gender equality.

The definition of feminism is

“Feminism refers to a range of political movements, ideologies, and social movements that share the common goal of defining, establishing, and achieving political, economic, personal, and social rights for women that are equal to those of men. Feminist movements’ main concern is women. The campaign to bring equal rights and opportunities for women”.

Gender equality is

“Gender equality is a view that everyone should be treated equally without any regard to their gender”.

5) Discussion question. Which is the biblical position for Elizabeth? If you are a parent of Elizabeth, how would you advise her?

Case 3

Casey was born with a congenital dislocation of his hip that made him limp for much of his life. All his life he wanted to be like his classmates, strong and athletic in sports but all he could do was to compete in chess and do the “nerdy” stuff like coding in computer class. He was quite brilliant with his computer skills and had written software that a big company in the USA had bought over from him. Still, he yearned to be just like the other teenagers in his school. An opportunity came for him to have corrective surgery on his hip but this kind of surgery was experimental and came at great risk of complications which might be even life-threatening. He was struggling with his decision with his mother’s Gamma group friends and the reason he gave for going for the procedure was that he wanted to be fully restored to the image of God as God had intended him to be no matter the cost or the risk. He was sure that because he wanted to be a whole person, made in the image of God that God would ensure the surgery was successful and complication-free. He would finally be able to run and jump like the other kids and be fully whole and truly glorify God.

6) Discussion question. What do you think about Casey’s reasoning for the surgery?

7) Discussion question. Is his concept of the image of God correct?

8) Discussion question. How should you counsel Casey?

Case 4

Jasmine was having a lot of conflict with her husband over the issue of using contraception. She did not want children simply because she believed the world is an ugly evil place full of suffering and pain. Her husband pointed out that in Genesis 1 God gave creation mandate to mankind to procreate as part of the way they were to subdue and have dominion over creation. Jasmine however countered that this mandate was superseded because of sin in the world. The world now is overcrowded and full of sin and suffering hence the creation mandate no longer applies and in fact, the responsible Christian thing to do in today's world is not to have children as to bring them into this world would be to condemn them to suffer. She believed that refraining from having children would be an act of glorifying God. Having children is a selfish act designed to bring happiness to the parents at the expense of the child

9) Discussion question. Is her view correct in the light of Genesis 1?

10) Discussion question. How is the Creation mandate now related to the Great commission in Matthew 28?

Quick Verse Reference

Matthew 28:18-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Case 5

Harvey was attending the 5th Tabernacle church where he was impacted by the constant call of the pastor to step up and share the gospel to everyone. They would be on the streets in the most difficult parts of town giving aid, cooking meals and sharing the gospel. Some of the church members were so enthusiastic that they had been taking material from their respective places of employment like food and clothing in order to feed the poor. The group was very welcoming to everyone who joined as long as the goal of the mission was accomplished. Many of them struggled with addiction themselves, bitterness, enmity and broken marriages. However the leadership mainly turned a blind eye to these issues. Their main verse quoted was the role of the church:

1 Peter 2:9-10 (ESV) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

The pastor said as long as they were fulfilling that verse, they were truly on track and nothing else mattered. There were many in the group who were lawyers , accountants in prominent firms, people in the arts but the constant push was for them to go full time and share the gospel as all these professions were no longer important in the light of this verse.

11) Discussion question. Do you think this church is on the right track?

12) Discussion question. What are its (church) problems and its strong points?

13) Discussion question. How do you reconcile Genesis 1:27-28 and 1 Peter 2:9-10?

14) Discussion question. What is the purpose of your life and how are you going about fulfilling it?