

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Creation Man and Woman, Pt 1

Genesis 1:26-30

Keywords: Truth, Creation, Evolution, Adam and Eve, Humanity, Adam Theology

PowerPoint Presentation included: none

SermonAudio Blurb:

I. Introduction.

- A. From where did humanity come? What is it's origins? Why are we the way we are? Why do we act the way that we act? What is our place in this vast universe?
 - 1. Right now massive shifts are taking place right before our eyes.
 - 2. Through the subtle and effective process of familiarity there is an ever expanding comfort level in the minds of too many Christians. Little surprises us but even more concerning is that little grieves us.
 - 3. What we are watching is not new though. It is how our world has functioned since almost the beginning.
 - a. We often forget the statement of God as He looked upon the world in the days of Noah, "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).
 - b. It is a sad commentary that God had to explicitly forbid Israel from offering any of their children to the god Molech through offering them up to be burned.
 - c. The bible is brutally honest and describes the multitude of ways humanity comes up with ways to devise every sort of evil and how we rise up and applaud those who commit such acts.
 - 4. It is obvious by now that making laws is not the answer for we can always just ignore those laws or make new ones.
 - 5. Three things need to occur for any real change to occur in either a society's life or individuals.
 - a. First would be a genuine revival or regeneration.
 - (1) Revival for the society.
 - (2) Regeneration for the individual.

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- b. Second, developing a robust and biblical world view.
 - (1) Sound theology for all things.
 - (2) Reclaiming the mind to think only through a biblical lens.
 - (3) Paul would call it “taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).
 - c. Third, practicing that theology in life.
- B. At Missio, we seek to do all three of these but it is not something that the church can do on its own.
- 1. Each person here must first know if they are truly a Christians or merely one in name only.
 - 2. Each person then must determine in their own heart to grow in their knowledge of the Word of God.
 - 3. Finally, as you grow you must apply it in your life and your household’s life.
- C. This is the purpose of this series through Genesis 1-11.
- 1. For the non-Christian it is to show you why this world, including you, works the way it works. To show you your Creator and call on you to turn from your ways and to trust in Him.
 - 2. For Christians it is to do the same, but also to help you understand how you need to change your thinking so that your can be rightly oriented to God and to the world as God has ordained.
 - 3. A biblical understanding of origins is a key starting point. It is really that simple. Understand where things came from. From Whom they came. And why they came the way they came and most questions can be answered rather well.
- D. The historical Adam—truth or fiction?
- 1. This is a very large issue in the church today in America and throughout Europe.
 - 2. The battle always will center upon the trustworthiness of the bible. And so often it begins by alternative readings of the bible that merely suggest that other options are available.

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- a. More importantly, these other options of understanding somehow have equal weight for us to consider.
- b. It is sort of like discussing fruit. And what fruit is preferred. One likes the apple and another likes the mango. No big deal, it is a preference. No major consequences either.
- c. When you think about the beginnings of humanity it can't just be a preference. There are real consequences to choosing how you read Genesis 1-2 and the creation of mankind.
- d. Major articles and books are being published on this very subject and it is affecting what comes out of the pulpit around our nation.
3. The only people who do not treat the creation of Adam as a literal, actual, historical event are many who are teachers of the bible.
4. The bible itself, however, treats Adam and Eve as actual people, created by God.
5. The issues connected to Adam and Eve are many and complex.
 - a. It causes us to ask what God actually created and did with all things in this universe if this account about Adam and Eve is not literally true.
 - b. We are forced to completely rewrite how the human race came into existence.
 - c. Are all humans sinners? If Adam was not the first human then how does his sin affect all those humans before him and concurrent to him?
 - d. This also causes us to then completely change how we understand the presence of sin and death.
 - e. This leads to the reality of salvation and what it is.
- E. We come to how the bible describes the beginning of mankind. Not just creation in general, but how humanity started.
 1. Read Genesis 1:26-31.
 2. This passage is a broad overview of the creation of Adam and Eve. Chapter 2 gives us details and we will see them in the next sermon.

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3. Today I want to make five observations about humanity from this passage.

II. **God Created Them, Male and Female.**

- A. Every person carries the image of God (26-27).
 1. First, it is worth noting the way this verse describes God.
 - a. Us plural = image singular
 - b. Right away we see the indication of a plurality within the godhead.
 - c. Right away the bible establishes the idea of this idea of the plurality and it is worth your time to make a note in your bible about this.
 - d. This image cannot refer to angels, though some will try to do this regardless of the fact that angels are never spoken of as possessing this image.
 2. There is always the question of what is meant by the image of God but the bible does not tell us in a direct manner. But we can see what is meant by considering what it is that sets us apart from the rest of creation as revealed in the bible.
 3. Three aspects:
 - a. The image of God (IOG) is seen in our ability to exhibit God's communicable attributes (love, mercy, wrath, etc.) It doing so we are portraying God in a small way. Also the fact that we have intelligence, the ability to reason.
 - b. The second is that the image of God is seen in our ability to relate to God. Because of the IOG we have a unique relationship with God—one that no other part of creation enjoys, including angels. We are called to have fellowship with Him.
 - c. The third is that the IOG is seen in our position of dominion. I will develop this a bit more in the next observation.
 - d. Bring these three together and you have a good sense of how we carry that image. We reflect it through how we naturally interact with each other, in our fellowship with God and as we express dominion over creation.

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4. Because man was man in God's image in some small way, all that man does or is (apart from sin) reflects God. We are walking expressions of God's presence.
 5. So when we say that a human is made in the image of God. It is a full statement. It is a rich statement. And it separates us from the rest of the entire universe. We are unique.
 - a. This attaches infinite value upon each human. It speaks to how you and I are to view people.
 - b. In Genesis 9 we will see that this is why murder is to be a crime punished by death. To murder an image bearer is to cause the murderer to forfeit their life. It is that precious.
 - c. It speaks to the ultimate problem, then, with abortion. That little baby is an image bearer. Any other argument given for why abortion is wrong is secondary.
 - d. This is where sin comes into play as well. We will see this in detail in chapter 3 but just consider what Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and"
 - e. We, as image bearers of the Most High, we exchange it for something less and we delight in something/anything less than the One who has true glory and true life.
- B. Every person is made to rule over and subdue creation (26-27).
1. Notice in verse 26 how the decision was to make man in the image of God and then immediately following that, "... and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.. (27) And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."
 - (1) Note the way the passage is constructed. The decision to make man in His image is at the beginning and the end, with dominion in the middle.
 - (2) Notice how the psalmist states it again, "Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of

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Your hands; You have put all things under his feet” (Psalm 8:5-6)

- (3) After the Flood this mandate to have dominion continued (Genesis 9:1-3).
 - b. When Adam was created, he and Eve were placed in a garden. It is this garden that was likely to function as a pattern for which they, and their offspring, were to bring the rest of the world under dominion. This is what is meant when it says that they were to subdue the earth.
2. This dominion is hardwired into humanity and we see it constantly.
 - a. We can look at a canyon and see the enormous value of damming it for the purpose of running electric turbines and creating a large reservoir of water.
 - b. We see horses and capture them. We break them, train them to pull plows and wagons, carry people, and even do tricks for our amusement.
 - c. We find gold in the ground and mine it. We don't leave that gold in its original state, rather, we refine it and create jewelry and coinage.
 - d. We take various products and turn them into paints so that we can create works of art that are pleasing to our souls. We take trees and turn them into lumber so that we can build and create things.
 - e. I have often said that if you send your children outside to play, given a little time they will begin to convert things into new things. And this ought to be encouraged. It is right and proper.
 - f. All of this flows out of the fact that we are in the image of God. We, even in a fallen state, still live out that image.
 - g. This is also why there is much misery in people. There is a capacity for love and joy. There is a desire for purpose. But because of sin man finds himself pursuing cheap imitations. Things that are vain, rather than the fullness of love and joy found only in God.

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- h. The Christian is to be a leader among others on what it looks like to show dominion.
 - i. What sin does is corrupts this natural, God-given desire though.
 - (1) So when you see dominion turn into domination of the earth you see the effects of sin. This is how we create things to accomplish even greater evil. Or how we destroy the environment.
 - (2) but it is also seen when we see people elevate the environment above humanity. A simple example would be to refuse to build a dam or to prevent the cutting of trees for lumber because they are somehow intrinsically evil.
- C. There are two genders, male and female (27).
- 1. Again it is worth noting the wording with care.
 - 2. Notice how both man and woman are introduced rather abruptly here. Little explanation on how this came about or even the purposes, roles or distinctions between the man and woman.
 - 3. Moses will expand on this in chapter two where we see how Adam was formed and how Eve was formed and critical information about the two. Extremely critical to the point that chapter two of Genesis is what New Testament writers use to explain the role of men and women.
 - 4. We will consider the roles in detail next sermon but for now it is sufficient to see that only two genders are made. Male and female.
 - 5. Again this confronts the efforts of so many to try to make gender something that is optional and open for discussion.
 - 6. There is a huge temptation for a rant here but it would only be that, a rant. I simply want you to think for a moment and ask yourself if you believe this?
 - 7. Is humanity a rainbow of genders, all acceptable and all equal in beauty and importance? How do you teach your children regarding these challenges in our nation?
 - 8. The bible never shows God treating any idea of gender fluidity as acceptable or proper. It is always seen as more than simply an error, but false and detestable thing in His sight.

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9. In Romans 1 a simple, yet key argument made by Paul is that as humanity rejected God and worshiped everything else that a by-product of this was a rejection of how God made them. The result was something Paul calls “unnatural.” But his point is greater than an argument against homosexuality. It is the idea that God is our Creator and we were designed to worship Him. And what homosexuality pictures is the essence of how unnatural it is for us to worship anything and everything other than God.
 10. The next observation deals with a key reason why God created male and female.
- D. The normal call of couples is to bear children (28).
1. This is a command and it is not rescinded in any way today.
 2. God created the first couple and in His divine design he made it so that only together can they procreate.
 3. Children are always portrayed in the bible as a blessing from God and it is normative for us to have children.
 4. But it is designed also to be done as a couple and it is worth noting that the original design was one man and one woman given by God and committed to one another in marriage.
 5. It is not the design of God to look at children as a burden or a problem or a loss of freedom or a loss of joy. They are gifts from God and they each are fellow image-bearers.
 6. Children are something to be desired and sought after rather than avoided. And so child-bearing is described as being fruitful.
 7. Childlessness is not the result of God’s creation but one of the countless costs of sin in this age. There are many who desire to bring forth children but who cannot due to physical limitations or because they are prevented due to not being married. Neither are normative and each remind us that sin still is present.
 8. This means that we ought not listen to the constant drumbeat of those fretting about overpopulation. Instead as Christians we should seek many children and see them as good.

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9. Christians should lead the world in child-bearing and child-rearing. We should be examples of what it looks like to trust in God's design and to see our children as our primary mission-field.
- E. The original call of humanity was to feast upon plants (29).
1. To both Adam and Eve God gave all the plants and fruits to be their food.
 2. Yes, vegetarianism is true and it is biblical. But it is not how things work today because God later gave to humanity the meat of animals as food as well.
 3. But it is worth noting that the original design was for us to enjoy the vastness of food found in plants.
 4. And if you give it a thought you can see the goodness of God in this through the creation of such a massive variety of fruits and vegetables that exist. Add to this incredible variety of tastes and textures found in the plant world and you see His care for His people.

III. **Conclusion.**

- A. How does the gospel of Jesus Christ interact with these observations?
1. First, the bible makes it clear that one of the key things happening in the lives of those who believe and follow Jesus Christ is being remade into His image.
 2. Second, the marital roles of the man and woman is designed to be an image of the relationship of Jesus and the Church. His life-sacrificing love for His bride and the faithful submission and respect of the bride to her husband.
 3. Third, as we approach this Christmas holiday we are reminded of the Holy Child, born in Bethlehem. God with us. God invading our sin darkened lives and world where Jesus would take upon Himself our sin and our punishment on the cross. Where He would be our death-conqueror.
 4. Fourth, the idea of killing animals for food and even the idea of death is something not described in the new creation. When all things are made new what you will see is the reality of Eden but better. And this is all accomplished through the death defeating death of Jesus.

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Small Group Questions

- how can you as a Christian apply these simple observations about mankind into your life? What thought or conviction might have been challenged by these verses?
- Why do you think American believers are putting off marriage or children until later in life and how might this passage challenge both of those attitudes?
- How can you help counteract the constant pressure to reject these ideas that is present in our culture? What are your challenges in your life to them? When do you speak up and when do you remain silent? Where does life choices come into play with reflecting God's design in your life before an unbelieving world?