

Series on being Created as a triune being. We talked about the Creator
Today we talk about Being Creation
Upcoming is being created as a triune being: Body – Soul – Spirit

Review: Creator – not intelligent design alone – but a triune God and we are made in His image
As the author He has authority – He can change the course of our lives, but we have free will
He is eternal and we are immortal
He took formless to form to fullness in creation

Opening Prayer

Let's start in Genesis

²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.²⁶ **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.**

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.”³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Zondervan Bible Commentary:

The account of the creation of the land creatures on the 6th day distinguishes two types: the “living creatures” that dwell on the land and humanity. The former are divided into 3 groups: livestock, creatures that move along the ground and wild animals. Humanity is distinguished as “male” and “female”.

Verse 25 add the important clarification that although vegetation was produced from the land, the living creatures were made by the Lord God himself.

The beginning of the creation of the human race is marked by the usual “And God said.” However, God’s command that follows is not an impersonal (3rd person) “Let there be...” but rather the more personal (1st person) “Let us make.”

Secondly, whereas throughout the previous account the making of each creature is describe as “according to its own kind: in the account of the creation of humankind it is specified that the man and women were made “in God’s image” not merely, “according to his own kind”

Third, the creation of humankind is specifically noted as a creation of “male and female.”

Previously gender was not considered to be an important feature of the creation of the other forms of life, but for humanity it takes on importance.

Fourth, only humans have been given dominion in God’s creation

Notice here the Original Design of God (pre Genesis 3 sin enters)
Not to be equal to other created things
To have dominion and to rule over

As creation – God created us in his image
We were God’s idea, the pinnacle of His creation
He made mankind then rested, never to create from nothing again (one source said)

Why is it important that we believe that we were created?
And not just created, but 3 times it says created in “His image” and 1 time in “His likeness”
It means that we carry the image of God and He created us to be in relationship with Him
It means we have eternal spirits with body and mind and emotions – in this way we are like God
It means that we have free will to choose / without free will we are only programmed bots.
There is no sense of community, relationship, honor or responsibility with bots.
There is not moral compass and compassion in other created life (survival of the fittest)

Being created in the image of God and in His likeness is something Satan is jealous of.
When he was cast out of heaven it is said that his image changed.

He wanted to be like God and since he has fallen anything that reminds him of God and His image is considered an enemy and as it says in [John 10:10](#) The thief comes only to **steal and kill and destroy**;

If Satan can convince us that we are either not created by God or image bearers of God, it serves his purpose to bring pain to the heart of God

I am going to shift our focus a little and then come back to this.
I want to look for a few minutes at some science

ADD PICTURE OF COVER OF TIME OCTOBER 9, 2006

Charles Price quote

So God is spoken of creating the material world, animal life, and then as something distinct to animal life: human life. We must recognize that humanity is a separate creation to the animal world. Elsewhere in Scripture it speaks of this. Paul wrote this in [1 Corinthians 15:39](#), "All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another, and fish another." Now of course there will be overlap and there is overlap between the different kinds of physical life. But there is also very important distinction between these different kinds of life, and particularly between human life and the other forms of life.

The October 9, 2006 issue has on the front cover the title: "How We Became Human." You've got a baby on one side and you've got a chimp on the other side—side by side—and the small print says, "Chimps and humans share almost 99% of their DNA." 98.77 is the exact proportion. Your DNA is 98.77% the same as a chimpanzee, did you know that?

Well of course, there are certain things that we do share in common with the animal world. We eat, sleep, breathe, reproduce in the same way. But it's interesting, this article, which is a couple of stories, comes to this conclusion, which I am going to read to you. It says, "But the one percent differences are so different that human achievements of agriculture, language, art, music, technology, and philosophy make it ridiculous to see human beings as chimpanzees in business suits."

So yes, there are differences, we consume the same foods, vegetables, meat, but this little bit of difference—genetic difference—is so significantly different, says the TIME magazine, we're not chimps in business suits.

In case you're concerned by that, you also share 27% of your genes with daffodils. So you're almost one-third daffodil, just in case you're feeling a little yellow or you look pretty; that's the reason.

Why is this significant?

God used the same building blocks that He created in creation to make the other things in creation as well. We share the same “In the beginning” building blocks (DNA) of creation with other created things, but they all fall short of what God created us to be – living, free will image bearers, able to choose Him or not Him.

The differences are in His image differences

They are not DNA differences, but spiritual differences that as triune beings allow us to make decisions regarding our reasoned free will choices about preferences, spirituality, relationships and other higher function things that animals, “like their kind” are without.

The change from “let there be” to “let us make”

Does a person’s view of what it means to be human influence their ethical decision-making?

John Evans, a sociologist at the University of California, San Diego analyzed data from 3,500 US adults in order to find out.

The results: Those who believed humans [bear the image of God](#) held more humanitarian attitudes than those who did not.

The more that respondents agreed with the purely biological definition of a human, the less likely they were to view people as special. They were less willing to stop genocide and more likely to accept the ideas of buying kidneys and suicide to save money

Back from Science to Biblical

Genesis 5 1-2 When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them “Mankind”^[a] when they were created.

(Zondervan) The picture that emerges is of a loving father ensuring the future will-being of his children through an inherited blessing.

Why does it matter that we acknowledge that God is the Creator and we are creation?

If we are not created and just happen to come along then:

It does not matter:
If we live or die
what happens when we die
who we have sexual relations with
what we believe about Jesus
if babies are aborted
if we break covenants and lie
if we kill people
what the bible says
that there is an eternity waiting
that we have free will to choose or not choose God

Lest we get too big for our britches – Get too’s and Got too’s

If we don’t acknowledge God as “creator” and we as “creation” we think that we are just a little bit lower than Him, we think that we can achieve “god” status.
This pride is what brought Satan down
This pride is what the tower of Babel was about
This is possibly what AI is about – becoming “god”
Not about humility – gratitude – worship – submission – the attributes of God resident in us.

Some people think that we are just a little lower than God.
I believe that we are more like the potter and the clay in difference
[Romans 9:21](#) Does not the **potter** have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some **pottery** for special purposes and some for common use?

Since we believe we are created, we have moral responsibility.
The 10 commandments mean something; they are important to the one who’s image we bear
God reveals His nature in these as insight into who He is and a protection for us
Exodus 20 God revealing Himself to a people who have been in captivity for 400 years and don’t have an understanding of who this God is – these are still in tact and important to God so vicariously they better be important to us

³“You shall have no other gods before^[a] me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. (don’t serve things created, serve the creator)

⁷“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. (For some this is harder than others, but it is a command)

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet

This truth of God creating runs from Genesis thru Revelations
It is a foundational Biblical principle that matters

Genesis 1:1 (Original Design) In the beginning, God **created** the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:26 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.

Psalms 139:13 For you **created** my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

Ecclesiastes 7:29 This only have I found: God **created** mankind upright, but they have gone in search of many schemes.”

Isaiah 43:7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I **created** for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

Isaiah 45:18 For this is what the Lord says— he who **created** the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited— he says: “I am the Lord, and there is no other.

Romans 1:25 (God’s judgement when we get it wrong) They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served **created** things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised.

Ephesians 2:10 (Revelation of God’s plan for us) For we are God’s handiwork, **created** in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Colossians 1:16 For in him all things were **created**: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been **created** through him and for him.

Revelation 4:11 (Affirmation that He is the creator) “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you **created** all things, and by your will they were **created** and have their being.”

When we believe that we are created we believe:

That the one who created us is the Author and has authority

We have moral responsibility – 10 commandments

We can see God as a loving father that choose to make us in His image

God wants to be in relationship with us and made a way for that at creation – then even after we made a free will decision breaking that relationship – made a way again thru Jesus to be in relationship with us

Because we believe we are created, it is not a down grade in status.

We are the pinnacle of God's creation with the ability and choice to be with Him as He intended.

Our response:

Horizontal: Acknowledge His ways and live in relationship with God and man

Responsible for choices, committed to stewardship of resources, responsibility to care.

Vertical: Praise Him for what He has done and be in relationship with the Living God

Discussion Questions:

What stood out in the message?

Do you feel the tension between being the "pinnacle" of God's creation (a high position) and being creation (proper understanding that He is creator)?

What does it mean to you to be an "image bearer?"