



# IMAGO DEI - The Sanctity of Life - (PART ONE)

GUEST PREACHER: CHARLES SHANNON | Week of Sunday August 16th, 2020

**SERMON TRUTH //** God has an interest in welcoming all people into His Kingdom because all people are image-bearers.

**SERMON TEXTS //** **Genesis 1:28** English Standard Version

**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.

**Genesis 12:1-3** English Standard Version

**1** Now the *LORD* said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2** And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

**Acts 6:1-7** English Standard Version

**1** Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. **2** And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. **3** Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. **4** But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." **5** And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. **6** These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. **7** And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

**SERMON GUIDE //** Our view of every person, regardless of their similarities or differences, depends on our view of the Triune God.

- [1] Trust the promise** of the Father.
- [2] Follow the example** of Jesus.
- [3] Journey on mission** with the Spirit.

**SERMON APPLICATION //** With the correct view of the Triune God comes a correct view of all people. With that view we must be: **involved**, **invested**, and **inviting** all people into the relationship God accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We are to act for the sake of the Gospel, no merely for the sake of the church.

REFLECT. || POINT. || MAKE.



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COMMUNITY GROUPS

Week of Sunday August 16th, 2020

**Question 1** // Read **the various texts**. What is something from the texts that resonated with you, a truth that encouraged you, or even a question you may have surrounding the themes?

**Question 2** // In Genesis 1:26 God says. *Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.* **What words stand out in that statement?** The words *image* and *likeness* may have stuck out because we have been looking at our lives as image-bearers but the words *us* and *our* should also stand out to us. **What do these specific words teach us about God in a story when we are learning about man? How should it change the way we approach relationships with other image-bearers; socio-economic status, race, or religion aside?** Take some time to discuss the unity of our Triune God as an example for our relationships.

**Question 3** // Read **Genesis 12:1-3**. God specifically speaks to Abram about how He plans to bless him for the purpose of blessing others. God was going to bless Abram to be a blessing. Each of us, who have followed Jesus and His example, have been **blessed to be a blessing**. **How has God truly blessed you? And how can you approach that blessing in a way that is a blessing to all people you come into contact with in your day to day life?** Spend some time unfolding God's blessing on your life and how you can be a blessing to others.

**Question 4** // As we journey on mission with the Holy Spirit we must be willing to get **involved** in the lives of those living around us. We must be willing to **invest** in the stories of all made in the image of God. We must be willing to **invite** all people - no matter their story, background, skin color, political alignments, or religious beliefs - into a place where the Gospel is central to all we say and do. **All** of this begins when the church fills the two roles it has been called: witness and worship. **Would you consider yourself a worshipper of the Triune God? Explain your thoughts. Would you consider yourself a witness of the Triune God? Explain your thoughts. How do we develop a heart for being a faithful witness with the same zeal we have for being a faithful worshipper?** Take time to discuss the nature of worship and witness in the life of our church, our Community Group, and your own individual lives.

## Reflection & Prayer

Close this time together by praying specifically for God to strengthen both our worship and our witness in order for our involvement, investment, and invitation to all people made in His image to revolve around His Triune nature of unity.

REFLECT. || POINT. || MAKE.