

Series: Genesis: Creation to Corruption

Text: Genesis 1:26-31

Main Idea: Humans bear God's image to rule His world.

Title/Hook: Identity & Purpose

Date: 2/4/24

Purpose: To show that our true identity and purpose comes from the fact that we are created in God's image, male and female, to rule His world.

FCF/COR: Who am I and where did I come from are questions all humans seek to answer.

Christ Trajectory: We've failed in our rule, we need a new Adam to fulfill this role and renew us in His image. Ps. 8:1-8, Heb. 2:6-10, Col. 3:10

Apologetic/Evangelistic: Your truth worth, value, and purpose are found not in self-determination but in recognizing and submitting to what God says you are.

Call to Worship: Psalm 8:1-4

Benediction: Psalm 145:9-13

Structure: Inductive

Main Idea:

Subject (What is the passage about?): How are human beings created and what is their role?

Complement (What does the passage say about the subject?): They are created in God's image as male and female to have dominion over all the earth.

Exegetical Main Idea: Human beings are created in God's image as male and female to have dominion over all the earth.

Theological Main Idea: God created humans in His image to rule His creation.

Homiletical Main Idea: Humans bear God's image to rule His world.

Outline:

Quote – Neil Degrasse Tyson– “We are stardust brought to life, then empowered by the universe to figure itself out—and we have only just begun.”

Text: Genesis 1:26-31

1. God created man in His image (vv. 26-27)

Erik Thoennes - “Both men and women are made in God’s image and therefore they are more like God than anything else in all creation. Human beings are intended to live as God’s created analogy for his own glory.”

As image bearers we were created with **real** worth and value.

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

2. God created humans as male and female (v. 27)

As image bearers we were created to **relate** to God and each other.

Quote – Wayne Grudem – “Although animals no doubt have some sense of community with each other, the depth of interpersonal harmony experienced in human marriage, in a human family when it functions according to God’s principles, and in a church when a community of believers is walking in fellowship with the Lord and with each other, is much greater than the interpersonal harmony experienced by any animals.”

Romans 1:21, 26-27 - ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men

committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

3. God created humans to have dominion (vv. 26, 28-31)
As image bearers we were created to **represent** God and **rule** His creation.

Psalm 8:1-6 - ¹ O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
² Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.
³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?
⁵ Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.
⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;

Quote – Barry Cooper – “Because of the imago dei, we’re to follow in the family business. We can’t create something out of nothing as He did, of course. But we are to look after, maintain, cultivate God’s creation. We have received a royal calling, in fact: to be God’s representatives, God’s agents in the world.”

Main Idea: Humans bear God’s image to rule His world.

As image bearers we were created with **real** worth and value.
As image bearers we were created to glorify God by **reflecting** His character.
As image bearers we were created to **relate** to God and each other.
As image bearers we were created to **represent** God and **rule** His creation.

Hebrews 2:6-9 - ⁶ It has been testified somewhere,
“What is man, that you are mindful of him,

or the son of man, that you care for him?

⁷ You made him for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned him with glory and honor,

⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Colossians 3:10 - ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

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