

Series: The Story

Text: Genesis 1:26-28

HI: We exist because God made us.

Title: Origin Story

Date: August 15, 2021

READ Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man 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."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

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."

Homiletical Idea: We exist because God made us.

I. He made us to reflect Him. (26a, 27)

RE-READ Genesis 1:26a, 27

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

A. The image sparks a resemblance. (26a)

John Calvin: "All of creation to this point has been command...now God turns to consultation...with himself. This pause shows the dignity the wonder, the height of his creative activity."

B. The image speaks of a reference point. (26)

C. We were created beautifully distinct. (27)

Design: binary—male/female

D. We were created divinely linked.

Sam Allberry: Our culture says: “Your psychology is your sexual identity—let your body be conformed to it.” The Bible says: “Your body is your sexual identity—let your mind be conformed to it.”

RE-READ Genesis 1:26b, 28b

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."

...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."

II. He made us to rule for Him. (26b, 28b)

A. God gives us responsibility. (26b)

Psalm 8:5-9: 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; you have put all things under his feet, ⁷ all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. ⁹ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

B. God makes us representatives. (28b)

Jonah 4:11: And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

John Bunyan: “All things have their natural goodness by creation. Things are not good, because they have a being only, but because God gave them such a being.”

RE-READ Genesis 1:28a

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth..."

III. He made us to reproduce after Him. (28a)

Expressive individualism “Each of us finds our meaning by giving expression to our own feelings and desires” Carl Trueman, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*

Colossians 1:15-17

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.

Romans 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.