



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: God's Climax of Creation

Date: August 30, 2026

Scripture Text: Genesis 1:26–31

Notes:

Last week, we began our journey through Genesis by affirming that God created everything. As we continue our study of Genesis today, we turn to the climax of God's creation: humanity. [Genesis 1:26-31](#) explains where we come from and why every human life is significant. Of all that God created, humanity is unique because we were made in His image. In contrast, humanism rejects this belief and offers no basis for human significance. Today, we will examine four reasons God's creation of humanity is so special.

I. Made in the Image of God

When God said, "Let Us make man in Our image," He revealed the unique and personal relationship He intended to have with humanity. This language also points to the Trinity: God the Father is revealed in [Genesis 1:1](#), the Spirit in [Genesis 1:2](#), and the Son in [John 1:1–3](#). All three persons of the Trinity were active in creation, and all three are involved in humanity's redemption. Being made in God's image distinguishes human beings from the rest of creation and affirms that humanity did not arise from a lower form of life. Physical similarities between humans and other living creatures do not prove evolution. Our physical and moral capacities reflect the special significance God has given humanity.

- What does it mean for human beings to be made in the image of God?
- How do [Genesis 1:1–2](#) and [John 1:1–3](#) help us understand the Trinity's involvement in creation?
- How should being made in God's image shape the way we view and treat every person?
- Which human capacities most clearly reflect the special significance God has given humanity, and why?

II. God Told Man to Propagate Life

God provides clear direction for how humanity is to fulfill His command to "be fruitful and multiply." In [Genesis 2:24](#), He establishes marriage as the covenant union of a man and a woman, who leave their families of origin, are joined together, and become one flesh.



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- How does [Genesis 2:24](#) connect marriage with God's command to "be fruitful and multiply"?
- What does describing marriage as a covenant union teach us about commitment between a husband and wife?
- How is man to "subdue" the earth and rule over every living thing?

III. God Blessed Man

God created and prepared the universe for humanity. Before the Fall of man introduced sin into the world, creation was perfect and harmonious. There was no death, and both humans and animals ate freely from the plants God provided. Although creation is now affected by sin, humanity continues to experience God's blessing through it. A sunrise, waves crashing along a beach, or the vast expanse of the night sky can remind us of His power, creativity, and goodness.

- How does the description of creation before the Fall help us understand God's original design for the world?
- In what ways has sin affected the harmony of creation?
- What part of the natural world most clearly reminds you of God's power, creativity, or goodness, and why?

IV. God Gave Man Dominion Over Creation

At the Fall, humanity's dominion over creation was damaged by sin. Death entered the world, and the harmony that once existed between man, animals, and the rest of creation was broken. Throughout scripture, Jesus Christ demonstrated His authority over creation through many miracles. Even in a fallen world, humanity continues to exercise a measure of the dominion God originally entrusted to us. This calling reminds us that every person is eternally significant and is the climax of God's creation. Although the present creation will one day pass away, human beings were made with God's desire to exist together in eternity: *"He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, without the possibility that mankind will find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end."* [Ecclesiastes 3:11](#).

- How did the Fall affect humanity's God-given dominion over creation?
- How do Jesus' miracles demonstrate His authority over the natural world?
- How should the truth that God has "set eternity" in the human heart shape the way we understand our purpose and live today?