

**I. Introduction: God created mankind to represent Him in the world so that every creature on Earth would know that He is the Creator of the universe.**

**II. Image-Bearers of God (Gen 1:26-27).**

A. Overview of Genesis.

1. Genesis is arguably the most important book of the Bible. It is the foundation for all the other books, and without it, the rest of Scripture does not make sense.

B. Man's Creation (**Gen 1:26-31**).

1. All of creation serves as a backdrop to the creation of humanity. Humans are the most complex beings God ever created, far superior to any creature He made.

C. Image-Bearers of God (**vv. 26-27**).

1. Human beings are made in God's image. Many theologians have tried to explain what this means, but their explanations often fail to capture its essence.

**III. Conclusion: You are the unique creation of God, who bears the image of the Creator of the universe by representing Him and mirroring His divine activity.**

## Study Questions: God Creates Image-Bearers

1. Who are you? What is your identity? Who does God say that you are? What does it mean that you are His image-bearer? (**Gen 1:26-27**) How does your identity reveal your value?
2. How is the world currently suffering from an identity crisis? What are some ways people identify themselves? How do people identify by gender? Sexuality? Economics? Ethnicity?
3. Who does God say that you are? (**Gen 1:26-27**) What does it mean to be His image-bearer? How is the image of God the cure for chauvinism? Feminism? Racism? Gender confusion?
4. What does the word “Genesis” mean? (**Gen 1:1**) What origin stories are found in Genesis? How is the book divided up? (**Gen 2:4, 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1; 37:2**)
5. What is the focal point of God’s creation narrative? (**Gen 1:26-31**) What is different about the account of how God created animals and how he created humans? (**v. 26**) Why?
6. What is different about human beings that is not true of every other creature God created? (**Gen 1:26-31**) Why is it critical to know that we are made in God’s image? (**Gen 1:27**)
7. What are some ways that theologians have tried to explain the image of God? What is the substantive view? What is the relational view? What is the functional view?
8. What does the Bible clearly tell us about image-bearing? (**Gen 1:26-27**) How do we represent God? (**v. 26**) What did God emphasize about mankind’s activity? (**vv. 26-31**)

### Prayer

1. Ask God to reveal how you are made in His image and how you should represent Him.
2. Pray that God would show you how you need to change as you listen to His word.