

SEASIDE CHURCH // SERMON NOTES

January 27 | Genesis: God and Humans, Part 1

SUMMARY

We now come to the creation of humans on day six. This will be the first of a two part message on this very important passage. Genesis 1.26-31 answers two important questions... "Who are we?" and, "What are we here for?" The first question is the focus of this message. And this passage teaches us that we are made in the image of God and we are made distinctly male and female.

GROUP QUESTIONS *(For use with your family, roommates, community or bible Group, or individually)*

- Questions for Pastor Rob? Feel free to text them in to (509) 557-0331
- If you don't typically pray before beginning your discussion, take time to do that tonight.
- Review: Pastor Rob began by reviewing Genesis 1.1, 1.2, and what has happened so far literarily in the days of creation. Have someone in your group attempt to communicate what is going on in each of these three sections of Genesis 1.
- Read Genesis 1.26-31
- This passage gives us foundational answers to the question, "Who are we?"
 - The first answer is that we are made in the image of God.
 - Share something from the message or passage that surprised, encouraged, or troubled you (this can go in a lot of different directions).
 - What does it mean to you that when you open a Bible the first thing God wants you to know about yourself is that you are made in His Image!?
- The second foundational reality for who we are is that we are male and female.
 - According to the text, how are "male" and "female" related to the image of God?
 - Why do think this detail of "male and female" is mentioned in this foundational passage for understanding humanity? (this is profound)
- Every culture at every time (including ours) gives us different answers for the question, "Who are we?" The Bible gives us these two answers.
- How has culture influenced your answer to the question, "Who are you?" Is this in direct opposition to what you learn here? Why is this "very good?"
- Do you think, "maleness" and "femaleness" are misunderstood, attacked, even discouraged from being used as a category defining humanity? Discuss.
- Do you see your maleness or femaleness as a gift from God and as a part of being made in his image? Why/Why not?

PRAYER POINT

You are made in the image of God. Rejoice that God designates you and creates you as such. You are made male and female. Together we image God in the world. Celebrate this in prayer and pray for healing for those who are rebelling or have confusion around these truths.

FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS

Read Genesis 1.26-31 with your kids. Talk about being made in God's image. Celebrate the beauty of that gift. Also, discuss "male" and "female" as best you can. This too is a gift and an expression of being made in God's image. Help boys and girls to see that together they make up God's image. One isn't better than the other.

RESOURCES

- The Bible Project's: *Genesis* and *How to Read the Bible Series*.
- Keep in mind these 5 "reading guides" or lenses for Genesis.
 1. Read Genesis Humbly
 2. Read Genesis Theologically (to know God)
 3. Read Genesis Literarily (Ancient Jewish Literature)
 4. Read Genesis Eschatologically (It has the end in mind)
 5. Read Genesis Holistically (It is a part of the whole Pentateuch)
- Interpretive Statement: *Genesis 1-3 is a highly stylized literary and theological representation of pre-history written for the nation of Israel post-exodus.*

Email any questions to rob@seasidechurch.com