



“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.” (1Pt 3:15-16)

Valued: Because you're Created in God's Image

Genesis 1:26-31

Big Idea: God created mankind in his image; therefore, all people have value and purpose.

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.” (Gen 1:26-28).

Big Idea: God created mankind in his image; therefore, all people have value and purpose.

Created in God's Image

1. We have value because God has value (Gen 1:26-28).
2. Sin corrupts the image of God but does not remove it (Gen 3:7; Rom 3:23).
3. Image-bearers have purpose in life (Gen 1:28).

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Man's origin impacts the value/purpose of life.

Atheism

diminishes human value by reducing man to an animal.

Pantheism

diminishes human value by exalting all nature as God.

Christianity

values human life as created in God's likeness.

Ignoring the intrinsic value of humans inevitably leads to the industrialization of human misery.

- 16 million exploited for labor
- 4.8 million sexually exploited
- 4.1 million in forced labor
- 40-50 million yearly abortions

Source: International Labor Organization (ILO) & World Health Organization (WHO)



Valuable because ...

We are created
in the image of
God (vv. 26-27).

We reflect God
(v. 26).

We rule over
the earth, for
God (vv. 26, 28).

6 ways we [should] reflect God.

- i. Rational, conscience (Rom 2:14–16).
- ii. Love (Eph 5:2; 1 John 4:8, 16).
- iii. Creativity (Gen 1).
- iv. Justice & Righteousness (Micah 6:8).
- v. Wisdom (James 1:5).
- vi. Goodness (Mark 10:17-18).

2. Sinners retain the image of God (Gen 9:6).

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.”
(Gen 9:6).

People retain value, even in their sinful state.

Three truths follow:

- i. All deserve dignity.
- ii. All human life is sacred.
- iii. All need redemption.

All people deserve dignity.

Even naked lunatics living in tombs and paralytics on the side of the road deserve dignity and compassion.

(Matt 4:24, 17:15; Mark 5:1–13)

All human life is sacred.

One cannot injure another human being without “in a sense wounding God Himself.”
– John Calvin (on Gen 9:5-6)

All people need redemption.

God's purpose for sending His Son in the likeness of man was to renew God's image in mankind through the gospel.
(Eph 4:24; Col 3:10; Rom 8:29)

3. Image-bearers have purpose in life (v. 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.’” (Gen 1:28).

“There is at bottom no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pointless indifference ...”

– (atheist) Richard Dawkins

Embrace your value as one created in God's image and find your purpose in serving him.