

## God-Made – Genesis 1 – Week 6 – Genesis 1:26 – 2:3

**Genesis 1:26 – 2:3:** *Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

*28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*

*29 Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.*

*31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.*

**2** *Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.*

*2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.*

**INTRO to Series:** Genesis 1 describes God's work of speaking and forming all of creation, including our own existence. As we revisit the story of creation in Genesis and beyond, we will discover countless ways the Bible points us to the wonder of God's good creation, made by His powerful word. We'll also discuss each week some helpful practices to help us pull away from the intense draw of our technology and media and find space again for the goodness of God.

**INTRO to Genesis 1:26 – 2:3:** As we conclude this series today, we will start back on the sixth day of Creation when, after creating the animals, God created human beings and blessed them above any other part of creation. On the seventh day, God rested.

**Key Thought #6:** God blessed human beings with His image and likeness, with productivity, and with stewardship over all the life on earth that He made.

**Screens/Tech/Media Tip #6:** Take notice of when you are on your phone in the presence of other people. Put your phone away and be fully present. Most of what's calling for your attention can wait!

## **I. God blessed human beings with His image and likeness.**

-The culmination of Creation is not the cosmos or the earth but rather the creation of human beings in God's image and likeness.

-When God created human beings (**vs. 26**), He spoke them into existence using the plural language of "Us," which the New Testament helps us understand means more than just the heavenly host, this is the Triune God—Father, Son, Spirit—speaking human life into being with intent and purpose.

-The Hebrew word *tselem*, often translated "image," literally means something cut out or hewn out as if from wood or stone. A *tselem* is a picture or symbol that conveys the idea of the original. **Vs. 26** also adds the Hebrew word *demut*, or God's "likeness," to the description of human beings, to clarify that man is not the exact image of God but instead serves as the agent God's image on earth.

-In many other ancient religions, only kings and men of power were made in the image of a god. In the Bible, every human being bears the stamp of royalty—made God's image and likeness. The image of God imprinted on all human beings, with no differentiation of status between them. Therefore, God has woven dignity and value into the fabric of every single human life—male and female!

-Being made in God's image and likeness is expressed through representation and relationship: We are His representatives to the rest of creation and we can relate to Him like no other part of creation.

## **II. God blessed human beings with productivity and with stewardship over all the life on earth that He made.**

-God also blessed human beings with the ability to procreate—to be *fruitful and increase in number*. In our ability to reproduce, however, God also gives us dominion to *fill the earth and subdue it*. (**vs. 28a**)

-God gave the responsibility for caring for the earth, what it produces, and the creatures that inhabit our planet to human beings.

-Our dominion over the rest of creation on earth does not come from our own authority, but rather from God our Creator Himself, who has set us apart as caretakers, or stewards of Creation on behalf of the King of Kings.

-Our role as stewards is to bring more dignity to the rest of creation, not to devalue it.

**-vs. 31: God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.**

### **III. God established a spiritual rhythm of rest by blessing the seventh day, calling it holy, and creating the Sabbath.**

-Key Thought #7: God established a spiritual rhythm of rest by blessing the seventh day, calling it holy, and creating the Sabbath.

-Screens/Tech/Media Tip #7: Establish a weekly “Tech Sabbath” time and space in the regular rhythm of your life. Pick a window each day or a portion of each weekend when you will intentionally step away from screens altogether. Perhaps spend an entire day each week—like Sunday—with all social media blocked.

-Work is not a product of humanity’s Fall into sin, work was created by God and modeled by God as a gift within creation.

-The Sabbath is also God’s creation! On the seventh day, God created and modeled the practice of spiritual rest from the “work” He had done. (see **Exodus 20:8-11** below)

-At the end of the Creation story it is clear: Creation is a “solo performance” with only one leading role – The Lord God who is the One True Creator!

-Man’s glory is not the focus of the Creation story, God’s glory is!

#### **Other Scriptures Referenced:**

**Genesis 2:7:** *Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

**Genesis 2:15:** *The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

**Genesis 2:18-24:** *The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”*

*19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.*

*But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*

*23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones*

*and flesh of my flesh;*

*she shall be called ‘woman,’*

*for she was taken out of man.”*

24 *That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.*

**Exodus 20:8-11:** “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

**Acts 17:24-28a:** “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’”

#### **Other Quotes/Resources:**

“The image of God is not depicted on gold but is imaged in humanity...For Caesar required his image on every coin, but God has chosen man, whom He has created, to reflect His glory.” –Unknown ancient Christian

–“Human life is of the utmost important and dignity is granted to everyone, from the loftiest to the most vulnerable, shunned, and demeaned of people.” –Kathleen M. O’Connor

–“Let us glorify the Master Craftsman for all that has been done wisely and skillfully, and from the beauty of the visible things let us form an idea of Him who is more than beautiful...let us conceive of Him who is infinite and immense and who surpasses all understanding in the plenitude of His power.” –Basil the Great