

“Humans Created in God's Image”

Genesis 1:26-31

For the week of October 11, 2020

Day 6: The Grand Finale

The climax of the creative week is the creation of humanity. Everything else is in place: the stars and planets, the sun and the moon, the seas and the land, the plants and the trees, and the animals. All that is left is man and woman. Here is something to ponder: the plants and the animals were not made in God's image. The stars were not made in God's image. Only man and woman were made in His image.

To have the “image” or “likeness” of God means that we were made to resemble God. Adam didn't resemble God in the sense of God having flesh and blood because John 4:24 states that “God is spirit.” Adam's body did mirror the life of God as it was created in perfect health and not subject to death. The image of God refers to the immaterial part of humanity. It sets us apart from the animals, places us for the oversight God intended for us to have over earth, and we are able to commune with God. In a nutshell, it is a likeness mentally, morally, and socially.

Your Image

In what ways are you the image of your parents? If you have children, how are they the image of you?

God's Image

Read Genesis 1:26-31. When you read that we were made in God's image or likeness, what comes to mind? Does it mean a physical resemblance or something else? Explain your answer.

Responsibility

How does being made in the image of God mean that we are given responsibility on this earth (review Genesis 1:26-31)? What are some of the areas that we are given responsibility? In your opinion, have we been good stewards of creation? Why or why not? How have you been a good steward of creation?

Dignity

How does being made in the image of God mean that we humans have dignity? HINT: Human dignity impacts how we treat other people. Share some examples of what that looks like.

Capacity

Does being created in God's image give us the capacity to mirror God? Why or why not? As Christians, how has our redemption greatly enhanced this capacity?

How does being made in the image of God mean that we have the capacity to love and obey God?

Distinct

Both animals (verse 24) and humans were formed out of the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7) and both go back to the dust after death (read Ecclesiastes 3:19-20). However, humans and animals are different. What are some of the similarities and differences?

- Similarities

- Differences

Why did God make humans distinct from animals?

Fellowship

Was humanity created for fellowship? Read Genesis 2:18 and 3:8 to assist in your answer.

What is critical for believers to have fellowship with each other? Read the following passage to assist in your answer:

Amos 3:3

2 Corinthians 6:14

John 14:17

When God created the first humans, they were made to have a sense of community and connection with God. Then sin entered the world, and this community and connection was broken and damaged. Read the following passages and discuss how we can still have vital fellowship with our Lord:

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

1 John 1:1-3

Summarizing Genesis 1

Go back and reread Genesis 1 in its entirety. Make some general observations from the following:

What is the content of Genesis 1?

What are the main themes in Genesis 1?

What is the pattern in Genesis 1 and what does this tell you about God and His creation?

In Genesis 1 what do you think God wants us to learn about the following:

- Himself
- The world
- Ourselves

Finally, what impact does Genesis 1 have on our world today? In your life today?

Prayer

A great old hymn from 1796 reflects God's creation. It is called "Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him." The author is not known. Use this hymn as a springboard for prayer.

Verse 1

"Praise the Lord! Ye heav'ns, adore him;

Praise him angel, in the height;

Sun and moon, rejoice before him.

Praise the Lord! For he has spoken;

Worlds his mighty voice obeyed;

Laws which never shall be broken

For their guidance he has made."

Verse 2

"Praise the Lord! For he is glorious;

Never shall his promise fail;

God has made his saints victorious;

Sin and death shall not prevail.

Praise the God of our salvation!

Hosts on high his pow'r proclaim;

Heav'n, and earth, and all creation,

Laud and magnify his name."