

Let's Start at the Beginning: Genesis 1-11

May 2nd, 2021

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Answering Two of Our Deepest Questions (Genesis 1:26-31)

1. Who am I? (v. 26)

2. Why am I here? (vv. 27-31)

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. When was the last time you were overwhelmed by options (e.g. at a restaurant, shopping, etc.)? When has too much freedom created anxiety in your life?

Going Deeper:

3. How is God's creation of humanity distinct from his other creative acts (1:26-31; see 2:1-25)? List some of the ways the author highlights the significance of this event.
4. What does it mean to be created "*in the image of God, after [his] likeness*" (v. 26; see Genesis 5:1-3; Exodus 20:4; Psalm 8:5-6)? Summarize this truth in your own words.
5. How does the doctrine of the image of God provide a foundation for universal human rights and dignity (see Genesis 9:5-6; Matthew 22:37-40; James 3:7-9)?
6. Explain the connection between *being* an imager bearer, and *bearing* God's image in the world. What's the connection between our identity and our purpose? Jeff said that image bearers do three things; they *reign*, they *represent*, and they *relate*? Describe each of our purposes. Which of these stood out to you? Why?

Application:

7. What does Genesis 1 teach about where we find our identity and purpose? How does this differ from modern methods of discovering our identity and purpose?
8. Jeff said that the image of God doesn't just give us the dignity of rights (i.e. we deserve to be treated with dignity because we made are in God's image), but the dignity of responsibility (i.e. God stewards his power to us, to rule as his representatives). Why is this important to keep in mind? How does it change the way we think about helping others?
9. What's one thing from this sermon that you can apply to your life this week?

Genesis 1:26-31

"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." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."