

GENESIS 1:26-28 • WE BEAR GOD'S IMAGE IN OUR ROLES

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth. **27** So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female. **28** God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth."

GENESIS 2:18-23 • WE BEAR GOD'S IMAGE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper as his complement." **19** So the Lord God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. **20** The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found as his complement. **21** So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. **22** Then the Lord God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. **23** Then the Lord God made the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. **23** And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called "woman," for she was taken from man.

PSALM 8:1-9 • WE BEAR GOD'S IMAGE AS A CROWN OF HONOR

1 Yahweh, our Lord, how magnificent is Your name throughout the earth! You have covered the heavens with Your majesty. **2** Because of Your adversaries, You have established a stronghold from the mouths of children and nursing infants to silence the enemy and the avenger. **3** When I observe Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You set in place, **4** what is man that You remember him, the son of man that You look after him? **5** You made him little less than God and crowned him with glory and honor. **6** You made him lord over the works of Your hands; You put everything under his feet: **7** all the sheep and oxen, as well as the animals in the wild, **8** the birds of the sky, and the fish of the sea that pass through the currents of the seas. **9** Yahweh, our Lord, how magnificent is Your name.

1. WE BEAR GOD'S IMAGE IN OUR ROLES

READ GENESIS 1:26-28

HOW ARE HUMAN BEINGS DIFFERENT FROM EVERYTHING ELSE GOD MADE?

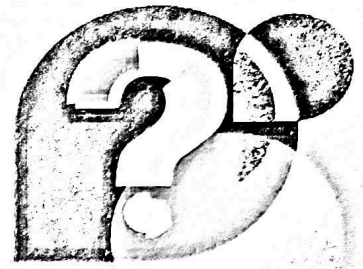
WHAT DO IMAGES DO? WHAT DOES THAT TELL US ABOUT OUR IDENTITY AS GOD'S IMAGE BEARERS?

2. WE BEAR GOD'S IMAGE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

READ GENESIS 2:18-23

WHAT STICKS OUT TO YOU ABOUT VERSE 18? HOW DOES GOD ADDRESS THE PROBLEM HE IDENTIFIED?

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL US ABOUT OUR DESIGN? ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER?



BIG QUESTION

WHAT DOES BEING CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE MEAN?

If you were living in the ancient near east at the time when Genesis 1 was written, Genesis 1:26-27 would be shocking to you. The "image of God" was a concept that many other ancient cultures believed in, but in a very different way. For example, the Egyptians and Babylonians believed that there was only one person who bore the image of their gods: the emperor (or Pharaoh). But Genesis claims that all people, male and female, bear God's image. The fact that all people are image bearers tells us about God's love for us. He has given every person tremendous value, dignity, and purpose. Bearing God's image isn't about how you look, for God is Spirit. Rather, it's about displaying God's attributes. We show what the Creator is like as we use our dominion and moral agency to do what is loving, just, and good.

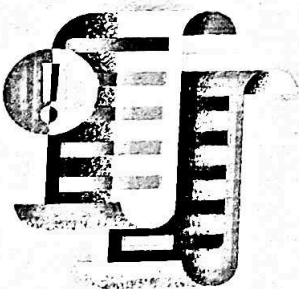
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "ONE FLESH"? WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE (SEE ALSO EPH. 5:25-31)?

3. WE BEAR GOD'S IMAGE AS A CROWN OF HONOR

READ PSALM 8:1-9

HOW IS GOD'S GREATNESS REVEALED IN CREATION (SEE ALSO PS. 8:1)? HOW IS IT REVEALED SPECIFICALLY IN HUMAN BEINGS?

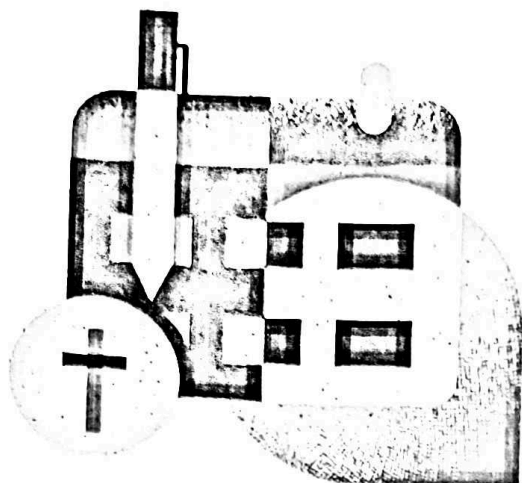
WHAT GIVES US VALUE (SEE V. 5)? HOW HAS GOD DEMONSTRATED OUR VALUE TO US (VV. 6-8)?



**ESSENTIAL
DOCTRINE**

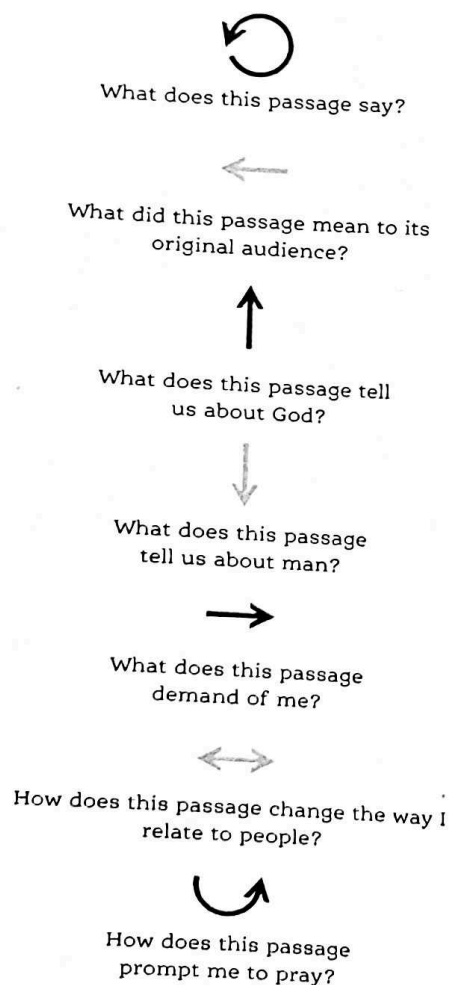
IMAGE OF GOD IN HUMANITY

The image of God in humanity is understood as reflecting God's attributes in our nature, actions, and relationships. In Jesus, we see the true image of God. He perfectly mirrors God's attributes, fulfills God's will, loves his neighbors perfectly, and enjoys a perfect relationship with the Father. The Bible continues to speak of the image of God in humanity even after our fall into sin, even though our ability to rightly reflect God has been marred.



DAILY DEVOTIONS

THESE QUESTIONS ARE YOUR GUIDE



GENESIS 1:26-31

HOW ARE WE, AS HUMANS, DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF CREATION?

HOW SHOULD KNOWING EVERYONE IS MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE SHAPE OUR RELATIONSHIPS? OUR ATTITUDES?

God has given every human being tremendous dignity and a royal task. We, by our nature, reflect God's attributes in our capacities, actions, and relationships. Of course we don't reflect God's glory perfectly; in fact, we don't even come close (see Rom. 3:23; Isa. 59:2). In Unit 2, we will unpack just how far we have fallen from reflecting God's goodness, love, and justice. It is also important to note that our God offers to redeem and renew His image in us through Jesus (see Col. 1:15-23). For now, however, it is important that we acknowledge God's beautiful design for us. Every human being, including you, has tremendous potential to make a difference in the world for the glory of God and the good of their neighbors.

DAY 02

GENESIS 2:1-3

These verses illustrate the foundation of the Sabbath. In the development of Exodus, while the Sabbath is a Sunday, Christians would come to observe the day of rest on Sunday, based on which Jesus rose from the dead. While we don't need to observe many of the strict rules ancient Jews had in regard to the Sabbath, at least the principle of resting regularly still remains. The Sabbath is a gift from God that reminds us that we're created not only to work, but also to rest and enjoy His good world.

GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL AND DOES NOT NEED TO REST. WHY DO YOU THINK HE CHOSE TO REST ON THE SEVENTH DAY?

WHAT DOES GOD COMMANDING US TO REST ON A REGULAR BASIS TELL US ABOUT HIM?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO REST WELL?

DAY 03

GENESIS 2:4-17

While God's work of creation is outlined in Genesis 1, Genesis 2 does something really helpful for us. Here, Moses does a deep dive into God's creation of human beings. God lovingly breathed the breath of life into humans and gave us more detail on our royal task. This passage also tells us about God's design for work. While we might think of work as frustrating, annoying, or even a necessary evil, that was not God's design. Have you ever worked really hard on a project that was really satisfying and enjoyable? That's a lot closer to the kind of work Adam and Eve experienced in the garden. Work is a gift. God showed us what good work looks like in Genesis 1, and here, He lovingly invites us to join Him in the project of working in a way that honors Him and improves the lives of our neighbors.

DO YOU THINK OF WORK AS A GIFT? WHY OR WHY NOT?

MORE THAN A PART-TIME JOB, WHAT WORK MIGHT GOD BE LEADING YOU TO? HOW MIGHT YOU DO IT WELL?

SESSION 10

GENESIS 2:18-23

WHAT IS NOT GOOD (V. 18)? WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT GOD'S DESIGN FOR US?

WHILE MARRIAGE MAY SEEM A LONG WAY OFF, WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER GOD'S DESIGN FOR IT NOW?

More than just a passage about marriage, Genesis 2:18 reminds us that God created us for relationships. While marriage is a unique and profound human relationship that God has a specific design for, this passage reminds us to make the most of all our human relationships. Who has God placed in your life to encourage and guide you? Who has He placed in your life to be your friend? Who can you encourage? Take a moment to pray, thanking God for the people He has placed in your life for your good and asking Him to use you to be a blessing to others.

DAY 05

PSALM 81-9

In this Psalm David celebrates the glory of God in creation and the majesty and power of God. He has given human beings the power to praise Him. The point of these verses is to encourage human beings to praise God for the way He made them.

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL US ABOUT GOD?

WHAT DOES IT TELL US ABOUT GOD'S DESIGN FOR HUMAN BEINGS?

HOW COULD YOU PRAISE AND HONOR GOD FOR THE WAY HE HAS DESIGNED YOU THIS WEEK?