

Genesis: From Creation to New Creation

Genesis 1:26 – 2:3

“Made in the Image of God”– January 16, 2022



Introduction

If you ask someone how they are doing they might answer, “I’m blessed.” You’ll see “#blessed on social media, and it is often connected to material and earthly blessings.

How does this match how Jesus described being blessed in the Sermon on the Mount? Health, wealth, and prosperity are insignificant measuring sticks for blessing. They don’t focus on eternity.

We all want the good life. But what is the good life? What is the path to blessing?
In showing us what it means to be human in Genesis, God shows us what it means to be blessed.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

1. Reflect God 1:26 - 27
2. Represent God 1:28-31
3. Rest in God 2:1 - 3

Read & Discuss

1) Read 1:26 - 27

Being made in God’s image means we are made to reflect Him just as we see our likeness in the mirror. We make visible the invisible God. The intention of creation was to fill the earth with “little mirrors” to the glory of God. ([Habakkuk 2:14](#))

This is a weighty privilege. It is also breathtaking. In Vs. 27, Moses changes his writing to poetry to reflect just how breathtaking it is. Line one tells that we came from God. Line two affirms that and emphasizes the idea of reflecting God. Line three tells us how God made humanity with gender. Male and female were both created in God’s image. Gender is part of God’s good design.

How does this text help us reflect on transgenderism?

- Gender is not a social construct. It is a divine construct.
- Gender is determined, not by what we feel, but by the body God gave us.
- Good is not determined by our desires but by God.

How do we as Christians respond?

- Be uncompromising on biblical truth.
- Respond and relate to the transgender person with love and compassion.

When you think about how you live your life day-to-day, in what ways do you reflect the image of God?
As a result of the Fall, we are all broken. When you are tempted, how will you deny yourself and flee temptation?

Additional Reading: *Psalm 139; Psalm 8:1-5*

2) Read 1:28-31

To represent God means that God made you to be a king or queen. We are a vice-regent to the King of kings. We carry out His purposes. We reflect His character in the way He would rule.

Every task on your to do list becomes dignified when you remember that you do it to represent God. In his book The Weight of Glory - C. S. Lewis writes, "There are no ordinary people!" We must remember that as we interact with each other. If we think about this as we look at every person, we can put to death the sin of racial partiality. "There are no gradations in the image of God." (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Do you consider your everyday tasks dignified? What can you do to remember that you represent God even in those tasks? Do you recognize the sin of partiality in your life? How can you put it to death?

Additional Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:21-31; Psalm 8:6-9; Colossians 3:1-11*

3) Read 2:1-3

On the 7th day God rested. He was finished with His work, and it was good. He is inviting those made in His image to come and rest.

God was and is intent on giving good things to His people even after the Fall. God promised Abraham a land of rest. The Promised Land was a picture of the full and final rest to come. The children of Israel didn't have rest in the land because they didn't have faith. ([Hebrews 3:16-19](#))

Rest comes from trusting and obeying God who loves us and is intent on giving us good things. There is a Sabbath rest for the people of God. ([Hebrews 4:9](#)) We are made in the image of God. Jesus is the image of the invisible God. Come to Jesus. He will give you rest.

What is causing you to be tired and weary? Is there something inside you that longs for rest? What things can you do this week to find rest in Jesus?

Additional Reading: Matthew 11:28-30

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Revelation 21:1–22:7](#) "The Hope of Heaven"