

Truth and Culture

The Design of Humanity

Genesis 1:26-27

MAIN IDEAS

- Humans are eternal beings
- God made humans his image bearers
- Two possible destinations for every soul
- Human beings created as God's masterpiece (Ephesians 2)

Who is God speaking to in Genesis 1:26? Who is making man with God? Consider Genesis 1:1-2, Psalm 104:24-30, Hebrews 1:2, and Hebrews 1:8-10.

How did God intend for humans to resemble Him? What characteristics of God did Adam and Eve share when they were first created?

In what ways was the image of God marred when Adam and Eve sinned?

Read Genesis 5:1-3. In whose image are the descendants of Adam?

Now that the image of God in man is marred, where is the image of God perfectly preserved? Consider 2 Corinthians 4:4 and Colossians 1:13-15.

How does God plan to restore the image of God in humans? See Romans 8:29, 1 Corinthians 15:49, and 2 Corinthians 3:18.

Consider Ephesians 4:22-24 and Colossians 3:9-10. What is the old self and the new self? What do they have to do with the image of God?

Read Ephesians 4:17-32 and Colossians 3:1-17 for the surrounding context. What are we called to do in the process of restoring the image of God in ourselves?

How are the mind and heart connected in the process of our transformation? See Romans 12:2.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

In what areas is the image of God in you most clear? In what areas is it most marred?

Review Ephesians 4:17-32 and Colossians 3:1-17. What one, two, or three commands stick out as most relevant to you?

Over the next week, make an effort to follow these one, two, or three commands.

Every morning and evening, meditate on God's word. Either the commands you selected above or any of the verses in the sermon or study.

Pray that God would renew your mind, and transform your heart, and so conform you to the image of His Son.

GROUP RESPONSE

Share with each other the one, two, or three commands you have selected to make an effort to follow this week. Encourage one another and hold each other accountable.

Pray for one another. Pray that God will polish His marred image carried by those in your group. Pray that God's reflected glory will shine for all to see.

REPRODUCE

Look for the image of God in other people, Christian and non-Christian. When you see it, encourage the person carrying it.

- Point out the characteristics they share with God.
- Encourage them to pursue and strengthen those aspects of God's character.

KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- Genesis 1:26-27
- Ephesians 2

From the study:

- Genesis 1:1-2

- Genesis 5:1-3

- Psalm 104:24-30

- Romans 8:29

- Romans 12:2

- Colossians 1:13-15

- 1 Corinthians 15:49

- 2 Corinthians 3:18

- 2 Corinthians 4:4

- Hebrews 1:2

- Hebrews 1:8-10