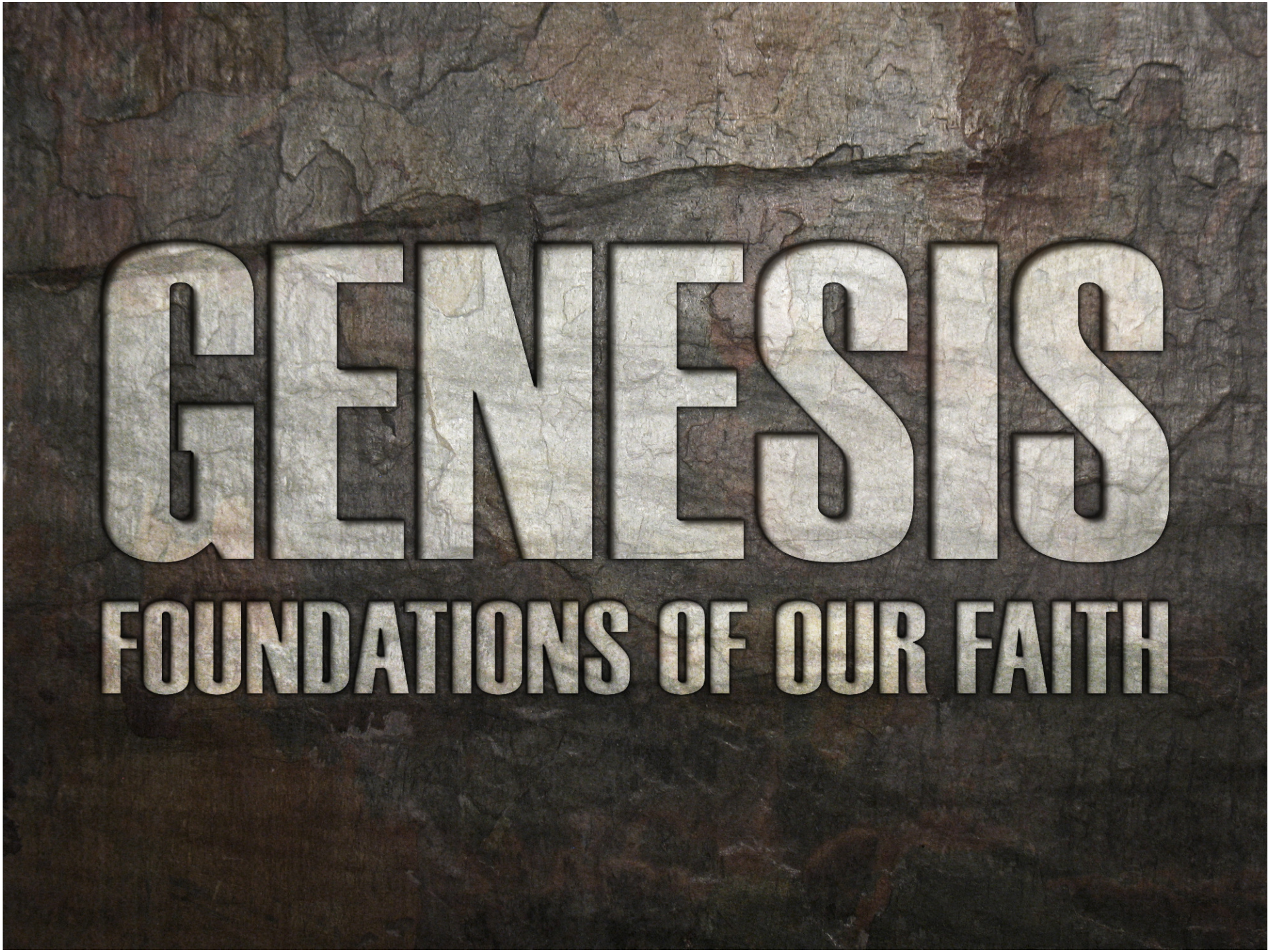
GENESIS
FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

GENESIS 1:26-28

Image and Likeness of God

Cultural Mandate

HUMANKIND is…

- Flesh and Blood (Heb. 2:14)
  - -- True also of Animals (1Cor. 15:39)
- Possessing Breath of Life (Gen. 2:7; James 2:26)
  - -- True also of Animals (Gen. 7:13-15)
- Thinking, Feeling, Choosing
  - -- *Thinking* snakes (Matt. 10:16)
  - -- *Feeling* bears (2Sam. 17:8)
  - -- *Choosing* sheep (John 10:5)
- **Image and Likeness of God (Gen. 1:26-27)**

IMAGE and LIKENESS of God…

- Compound Description -- not two distinct attributes
  - -- IMAGE (Gen. 1:27, 9:6)
  - -- LIKENESS (Gen. 5:1; James 3:9)

- The *Image and Likeness of God* is the key distinguisher of what it is to be Human (Gen. 1:27)

IMAGE and LIKENESS of God… What is it?

- Irenaeus: Rationality and Free Will
- Anselm: Morality – Reflecting God's Character
- Luther: Original Righteousness
- Middleton: Functional – A conflation of the Image and Likeness with the Cultural Mandate
- McFarland: Relational – Conscious, personal relationship with God
- Erickson: Substantive, Essence (Ontological)

❖ Humankind's INTRINSIC WORTH as Image and Likeness of God

NAS Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

❖ Humankind's INTRINSIC DIGNITY as Image and Likeness of God

NAS James 3:9-10 With it we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; 10 from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing . My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

IMAGE and LIKENESS of God… Gen. 9:6, James 3:9

- FUNCTIONAL Image and Likeness of God

  A human has *Intrinsic Worth and Dignity* because he/she *functions* as God's steward over the earth.

- RELATIONAL Image and Likeness of God

  A human has *Intrinsic Worth and Dignity* because he/she is *personally related* to God.

- ONTOLOGICAL Image and Likeness of God

  A human has *Intrinsic Worth and Dignity* because he/she has the Image and Likeness of God as his/her *essential being.*

IMAGE and LIKENESS of God… ELEMENTS

- Spiritual – God Consciousness (Rom. 1:18-23)
- Moral nature – Conscience (Rom. 2:14-15)
- Eternal perspective – Self Transcendence (Eccl. 3:11)
- Double Agency – Man plans, God directs (Prov. 16:9)

IMAGE and LIKENESS of God… New Creation

- The New Man CREATED according to God (Eph. 4:24)
- The New Man RENEWED according to the Image of God (Col. 3:10)
- The New Man TRANSFORMED into the Image of God (2Cor. 3:18)
- The New Man is CREATED in Christ Jesus to do the GOOD (Eph. 2:10)

IMAGE and LIKENESS of God… Implications

- Intrinsic WORTH of every Human Being (Gen. 9:6)
- Intrinsic DIGNITY of every Human Being (James 3:9)
- Inherent need to be INTIMATELY RELATED with God

  "Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on." [C.S. Lewis]
- Inherent Eternal Perspective (Eccl. 3:11)
- Inherent need for ACCOUNTABILITY (Theocratic) to God (Eccl. 12:13)
- Double Agency – Choosers under God's choosing (Phil. 2:12-13) [Friesen and Maxson]

CULTURAL MANDATE…

- PSALM 8:3-8 HUMANKIND made to RULE over the Works of God

NAS Psalm 8:3-8 When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, The moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? 5 Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God, And dost crown him with glory and majesty! 6 Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet, 7 All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

CULTURAL MANDATE…

- ACTS 17:24-28 HUMANKIND made to INHABIT the earth as unto God

NAS Acts 17:24-28 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.'

Cultural Mandate as a HUMANIST MANIFESTO… The Way of Cain

- Away from God's Presence (Gen. 4:16)
- Cities after their own names (Gen. 4:17)
- Animal Husbandry (Gen. 4:20)
- Music (Gen. 4:21)
- Manufacturing (Gen. 4:22)
- Labor and Skill motivated by Jealousy (Eccl. 4:4)
- Ingenuity devoid of WISDOM (Job 28)
- Science owns TRUTH [Christopher Frith]

NAS Job 28:20-28 "Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding? 21 "Thus it is Hidden from the eyes of all living, And concealed from the birds of the sky. 22 "Abaddon and Death say, 'With our ears we have heard a report of it.' 23 "God understands its way; And He knows its place. 24 "For He looks to the ends of the earth, And sees everything under the heavens. 25 "When He imparted weight to the wind, And meted out the waters by measure, 26 When He set a limit for the rain, And a course for the thunderbolt, 27 Then He saw it and declared it; He established it and also searched it out. 28 "And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.'"

CULTURAL MANDATE Redeemed… The Way of Godliness

- ENGAGED as Kingdom of God *Ambassadors* declaring the Providence of the King
- ENGAGED as *Image Bearers* acting as Kingdom of God Stewards
- ENGAGED as *Truth Merchants* – "[Unwrapping] the thoughts of God that lie embodied in creation." [Eric Johnson]
- ENGAGED as *Worshippers* in AWE of God's Engineering (Psalm 104:24)

Image and Likeness of God and the Cultural Mandate.. So What???

- *Know Thyself* [Socrates] through **Self Transcendence** as a *Theological Self* [Kiergegaard]
- *Know Thyself* through **De-identification and Re-identification** as a *In-Christ Self* (2Cor. 5:16-17)
- *Imaging* God before the world (Col. 3:10; Matthew 5:16)
- Godly Engagement of the *Cultural Mandate* as hands on point of contact with the world (1Peter 3:15-16)