



GENESIS

*The **Image of God** in Genesis 1 & 2*

“To have been created intentionally, imagined in the mind of God, and then brought into being communicates something profound about a person’s intrinsic worth. It speaks—you are loved; you are wanted; you are valued ... [as] some kind of reflection or embodiment of the divine.”

— Tremper Longman III

Last Week: Who is God, and how did he create the world?

The picture that the author paints of God in Gen 1 is this:

In the beginning, God brought order to the cosmos. This God is in control and masterfully guiding creation’s course. He established functional existence to the foundations of time, weather, food, and rhythms for life to flourish. He created creatures for these environments and tells them to fill them. Under his rule, everything is good, right, and has purpose!

Tonight: Who are we and what is our purpose?

- ANE’s (Ancient Near Eastern) answer: To serve the gods.
- The World’s answer: Here by chance, no purpose OR we are the point of it all!
- Church History’s answer: “To glorify God and enjoy him forever.” (Westminster Shorter Catechism)

Key to Remember: *Purpose and function* are the priority in Genesis 1 & 2, not chronological order.

Genesis 1:26-31

- Man = ādām - same word used for humanity and Adam.
 - Archetypal - representative for all humanity
 - Historical - in the genealogies; Seth's dad.
- Image = tsēlēm (also in Genesis 5:3)
 - Ancient understanding: a representative who has the power to carry out authority, like a viceregent; or a statue of the ruler.
 - Biblical understanding: (when not referring to humans) Referring to idols or “graven images” that represent the deity's essence.
- Our two functions as images of God:
 1. **Represent him:** bear his essence; rule and subdue with his authority. (intrinsic value)
 2. **Reflect him:** bear his character; carry out his ways. (capacity and potential)

Genesis 2:4-25

- records (also *generations* or *account*) = tōl^edōt - Appears 13 times in Genesis to introduce or conclude a section.
- dust = āpār - Connects to our mortality, brevity, and to all of creation.
- helper corresponding - Best understood as “counterpart-ner” (John Walton is punny)
- Rib - means side; not to be taken as anatomy (language is vague)
- This describes man's and woman's co-creating and image-bearing function that is the foundation of all civilization.
 - Man, woman, marriage, family, community, civilization.

Pause for reflection: *How does the fact that we are made in God's image impact how you live your life every day?*

The Biblical Narrative of Image Bearers

<u>Creation</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Redemption</u>	<u>Restoration</u>
Original Image "good"	Corrupt Image "broken"	Renewed Image "redeemed"	Perfect Image "complete"

Our God-Imagined Threefold Relationships

1. Relationship with God

- We all bear his essence, but we can't reflect God's character unless we stay in relationship with Him (in Christ).
- Our relationship with God is the one "thing" that impacts every area, facet, relationship, and responsibility we have.
- *"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."* - Augustine

2. Relationship with creation

- "Work" is part of our design and dignity, and we should all want to do something that matters.
- *"If God exists, and there is a true reality behind our reality, and if this life is not the only life, then every good endeavor, even the simplest ones, pursued in response to God's calling can matter forever."* - Tim Keller
- We were made to partner with God to create and cultivate; no task is too big or too small.

- ... *To rearrange the raw materials in such a way that it helps the world in general and people in particular, thrive and flourish.*” - Tim Keller

3. Relationship with each other

- Every human being has intrinsic worth and therefore worthy of love.
- We were made to both reveal and glorify God in how we relate to each other.
- *“The glory of God is a human being made fully alive.”* -Irenaeus
- The following sections are summaries or quotes from *Fully Alive* by Larry Crabb:

To men: A deeply masculine man moves into his relationships and responsibilities with no controlling fear of how others might respond or what life may throw at him. He therefore moves toward others compassionately, sacrificially, and with strength. He relates with one embraced purpose in mind: to encourage others to trust and to rest in the strength of God, who is always moving toward others in love.

To women: “An authentically feminine woman is a woman so at rest in God’s delight in her indestructible beauty that she refuses to be a slave to her fear of invisibility. She therefore invites others to enjoy the beauty of God, whose love casts out the power of fear, as she relates: invitationally, not controllingly; openly, not guardedly; and courageously, not defensively. She relates with one embraced purpose in mind: to encourage others to be consumed and transformed by the beauty of the God who sees, invites, nourishes, and enjoys His people.”