



Genesis 1:26-31

HUMANITY ACCORDING TO GOD

What is it that differentiates Adam and Eve from the rest of creation? We find the answer in Genesis 1:26: And God said, "Let us make man in our image..." What differentiates Adam and Eve from the rest of creation is that they were created in the image of God.... This phrase, **the image of God**, is as important as anything in Scripture, because men today can longer answer the crucial question, "Who am I?" In his own naturalistic theories, with the uniformity of cause and effect in a closed system, with an evolutionary concept of a mechanical, chance parade from the atom to the man, man has lost his unique identity. As he looks out upon the world, as he faces the machine, he cannot tell himself from what he faces. He cannot distinguish himself from other things. Quite in contrast, a Christian does not have this problem. He can know who he is. If anything is a gift of God, this is it—knowing who you are. —Francis Schaeffer, *Genesis in Space and Time* (1972)

WHO AM I?

The question of identity hits us all at some point in life. Who am I? Why am I here? Do I have value? Do I have a purpose? Am I loved? Genesis 1 not only introduces us to the nature and character of God but it also introduces us to ourselves. It answers the question of our identity: we are each made in the image of God (Latin, *imago dei*).

WE ARE _____ CREATIONS OF GOD.

- The creation account moves to a _____.
- God pauses His creation to _____.
- Humanity alone bears God's _____.
- The final assessment of creation is _____.

*For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.
My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.
Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them. (Psalm 139:13-16)*

We are here because one odd group of fish had a peculiar fin anatomy that could transform into legs for terrestrial creatures... because a small and tenuous species...has managed, so far, to survive by hook and by crook. We may yearn for a 'higher answer' but none exists.

—Stephen Jay Gould

The crown of God's handiwork is human life. —Kenneth Mathews

It was not angels who made us, nor who formed us, neither had angels power to make an image of God, nor anyone else, except the Word of the Lord... For with Him were always present the Word and Wisdom, the Son and the Spirit, by whom and in whom, freely and spontaneously, He made all things, to whom also He speaks, saying, "Let Us make man after Our image and likeness..."

—Irenaeus (AD 130-202)

Each person has around 10 billion miles of DNA inside of them. The Earth is about 93 million miles away from the sun. So your DNA could stretch to the sun and back 61x. That is one person's DNA!

—Dr. Barry Starr

WE ARE _____ WORKS OF ART.

*So God created man in His own image;
In the image of God He created him;
Male and female He created them. (1:27)*

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground,
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;
and man became a living being. (2:7)*

WE ARE _____ BEARERS OF GOD’S IMAGE.

Our Design



Our Purpose

WE ARE _____ PARTNERS IN GOD’S STORY.

- We are created for _____.
- We are created for _____.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LIVE?

- I need to see the value of _____ life.
- I need to see the value of _____ life.
- I need to see the value of _____ life.
- I need to see the value of yielding _____ my life to God.

The human being is the creature more important than all other visible beings and for this creature all the others have been produced—sky, earth, sea, sun, moon, stars, reptiles, cattle, and brute beasts.

—John Chrysostom (AD 347-407)

Genesis 1:27 is the first poem in the Bible. The shift to poetry highlights God’s creation of humanity as God’s image bearers. The truth expressed here undergirds all of Genesis.... Humanity is uniquely shaped by the hand of God.

—Bruce K. Waltke

Form. Hebrew, *yatsar*, “to mold into a form, esp. as a potter.”

The image of God involves the powers of personality that make humans, like God, beings capable of interacting with other persons, of thinking and reflecting, and of willing freely. —Millard Erickson

God created mankind alone in His image. God created man and woman as His vice-regents, as His deputy rulers over His creation.

—R.C. Sproul

Man was responsibly subject to God; he was in fellowship with the neighbor as his equal; he was steward over the natural world; he was at peace with himself.

—Harry Boer

That every human being possessed an equal dignity was not remotely a self-evident truth. A Roman would have laughed at it... The origins of this principle—as Nietzsche had so contemptuously pointed out—lay not in the French Revolution, nor in the Declaration of Independence, nor in the Enlightenment, but in the Bible.

—Tom Holland, historian