

- What it *does* mean...

Fourth, being made in the 'image of God' has significant and serious implications.

- This is true of *every* human.
- This is the *essence* of humans being human.
- This is how we should understand, see, and treat *ourselves*.
- This is how we should understand, see, and treat *all other* humans.

Instead of 'man' simply inhabiting his habitat (like what the other creatures do), **we hear that God specifically gave *dominion* of the other creatures to 'man.'**

What does it mean that 'man' has 'dominion' over the other creatures?

What does 'dominion' have to do with the 'image of God' in man?

Instead of 'man' being only identified by his creaturely function (like the other creatures), **we are told that 'man' is intentionally created as 'male' and 'female.'**

What does it mean that God made 'them' ('man') 'male' and 'female'?

What do 'male' and 'female' mean?

- God created two (genders/sexes).
- He only created two (genders/sexes).
- Every human is either one (gender/sex) or the other.
- Which (gender/sex) a person is, is determined by God.
- Each person's (gender/sex) is what it is in relation to God's design and command of reproduction (fruitful, multiply, fill).
- Each person, regardless of which (gender/sex) they are, is equally human and thus equally made in God's image.
- You and I faithfully live-out the image of God in us, as each one of us embraces who He's made us to be and functions in the world as He has designed us to according to who we are.

^{ESV} **Psalm 8:1** O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. ² Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. ³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ **what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?** ⁵ Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have 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 along the paths of the seas. ⁹ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Sunday, March 12, 2023
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

ORIGINS—The Book of Genesis
The Beginning and Meaning of Everything That Matters
No. 6 | CREATION—Day 6
Genesis 1:24-27

Review

A Few Reminders in Approaching Genesis 1

- We are told some things, but aren't told everything.
 - We are told what took place (i.e. the creation of "the heavens and the earth").
 - We are told when it took place (i.e. "In the beginning").
 - We are told by whom it all took place (i.e. "God").
 - We *aren't* told (at least not yet) how it all took place.
 - We *aren't* told (at least not yet) why it all took place.
 - We *aren't* told (at least not yet) how we can know for sure it all took place.
- What we are told is true (or accurate).
- What we are told is often phenomenal (or as it appears).
- What we are told is at times sparse (or even, enigmatic).

Creation—Days 1-3

- Day 1 | "Let there be LIGHT"—God separated the light from the darkness
- Day 2 | "Let there be an EXPANSE"—God separated the waters from the waters
- Day 3 | "Let the WATERS be gathered and let the DRY LAND appear"
"Let the earth sprout VEGETATION"
- Day 4 | "Let there be LIGHTS"—God made the sun, moon, and stars
- Day 5 | "Let the waters swarm with LIVING CREATURES"
"Let the BIRDS fly above the earth"

Creation—Day 6

Genesis 1:24-27

1:24-25, 26-31 | Day Six

"And God said...

**'Let the EARTH bring forth LIVING CREATURES according to their kinds—
livestock and
creeping things and
beasts of the earth
according to their kinds.'**

And it was so.

And God...

...made (*asah*)

the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and
the livestock according to their kinds and
everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind

And God...

...saw that it was GOOD.

A Few Considerations Regarding Animal Life...

- Genesis 1:20-25 represents the creation of all animal life, even though not all animal life we know is specifically listed—God doesn't have to list everything in order to prove He made everything
- Genesis 1:20-25 represents animal life in its broad *functional* categories, rather than humanly-constructed taxonomies—humanly-constructed taxonomies can be helpful but are not absolute
- Genesis 1:20-25 represents the totality of animal life generally, without explaining the particulars of every living creature's biology—it's purpose is not to provide such explanations, nor to simply frustrate human observation (Job 38:39-39:30)
- Genesis 1:20-25 represents, in actuality, the *kinds* of animal life present at the creation, which may or may not be still present today—we have no way of knowing *how* different then was from now
- Genesis 1:20-25 represents God's intentional plan for the *ongoing* reproduction of animal life along with His involvement in the process—kind is commanded to reproduce with its own kind, and reproduces after its own kind (Psalm 104:1-35)

And God said...

'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'

And God...

...created (*bara*) man (*adam*) in his own image, in the image of God he created him male and female he created them

How is the creation of 'man' different from the creation of everything else?

Instead of the typical 'Let there be...' (or, 'Let the [earth] bring forth...'), we read 'Let us...'

What does this difference indicate?

What does 'us' mean?

Instead of relating the creation of 'man' to his habitat (like the other creatures), we understand that the creation of 'man' is related more to God, Himself.

"It is not that God has not made both man and the great machine of the universe, but that he has made man different from the rest of the universe. And that which differentiates man from the machine is that his basic relationship is upward rather than downward or horizontal. He is created to relate to God in a way that none of the other created beings are." (*Genesis in Space and Time*, by Francis Schaeffer, p. 47)

Instead of the creation of 'man' being 'according to' his own 'kind,' we are told that 'man' is created 'in God's own image.'

What does this mean?

What does 'image' and 'likeness' mean?

First, the words 'image' and 'likeness' are used complementarily.

^{ESV} **Genesis 5:3** When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

^{ESV} **1 Samuel 6:5** So you must make images of your tumors and images of your mice that ravage the land, and give glory to the God of Israel. Perhaps he will lighten his hand from off you and your gods and your land.

Second, the phrase 'image of God' is used only four times in the Old Testament (Genesis 1:26, 27 [2x], 9:6, cf. Genesis 5:1, the 'likeness of God'), and isn't obviously defined.

Third, 'man' was made *by* God to be *like* God

How are we like God? How do we resemble Him?

- What it *doesn't* mean...