

- God creating humans *as male and female* is very good
- God creating humans and *entrusting* them with His word is very good
- God creating humans and *telling us* that it is all very good is very good for us

What does Genesis 1 mean for me?

I am...

- ...a something
- ...specifically created by God
- ...a living creature created with intentional design, definition, and distinction
- ...not everlasting, but I am eternal
- ...a human, made in the image and likeness of God
- ...created by God as either a male human or a female human
- ...a person, with personhood and personality
- ...entrusted with God's instructions and commands
- ...responsible to be who He's created me to be, where He has placed me
- ...dependent upon God for being who He's created me to be
- ...created in relationship to Him, other humans, and other living creatures
- ...created to be a part of His very good creation, as He's created me to be

If this is true, then...

- ...nihilism is wrong
- ...humanism is wrong
- ...evolutionism is wrong
- ...racism is wrong
- ...sexism is wrong
- ...egalitarianism is wrong
- ...environmentalism is wrong
- ...industrialism is wrong
- ...individualism is wrong
- ...collectivism is wrong
- ...fatalism is wrong
- ...indeterminism is wrong

Sunday, March 19, 2023
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

ORIGINS—The Book of Genesis
The Beginning and Meaning of Everything That Matters
No. 7 | CREATION—Day 6 (continued)

Genesis 1:28-31

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"
- Day 6 | "Let the earth bring forth LIVING CREATURES according to their kinds"
"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness"

Creation—Day 6 (continued)

Genesis 1:28-31

Who am I?

Genesis is the place to start and is the foundation for right thinking about...

Who I am

Who I am in relation to God

Who I am in relation to all other humans

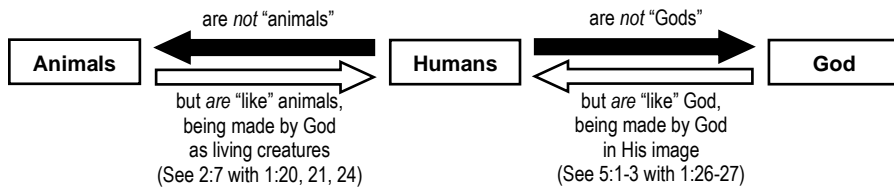
Who I am in relation to all other living creatures

What can we conclude thus far regarding who I am?

I am a created being...thus, I am *not* (a) God

I am created as a human...thus, I am *not* (an) animal

I am created as either a male or a female...thus, I am *not* self-determining



Remember, the most succinct truth regarding our (human's) fundamental distinction as humans is that we have been made by God *in His own image*—we were (are) made uniquely *in reference to Him*...

- We **resemble** Him and we (are to) **reflect** Him
- We (thus) **represent** Him and **relate** to Him and to others made in His image
- This is *foundational*, which means it provides the basis upon which everything else is built
- This (then) forms the foundation for how we view and treat ourselves and all other humans

Though _____ is different from me in their _____, because _____ is a human and is thus made in the of God like me, then I should treat _____ as God intends for me to treat someone who is mad in His likeness.

ESV **James 3:7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

How are humans ('man') like God? A few examples from Genesis 2...

- like God, man "works and keeps" the creation and "rests," (2:15)
- like God, man distinguishes between right and wrong and reasons, (2:16-17)
- like God, man "names" and orders creation, (2:19-20)
- like God, man "speaks" and dialogues with others, (2:23)
- like God, man recognizes and appreciates beauty, (2:23)

1:28-31 | Day Six (cont.)

"And God...

...BLESSED them

...said to them

'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'

And God said...

'BEHOLD, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit you shall have them for food.'

And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth everything that has the breath of life I have given every green plant for food.'

And it was so.

And God...

...saw EVERYTHING that He had MADE and BEHOLD, it was VERY GOOD.

And there was evening and there was morning, the SIXTH DAY."

What does it mean that everything was very good?

Basic definition = pleasant, agreeable, etc.

Its use in Genesis = (2:9) "good for food," "the knowledge of good and evil" / (2:12) "the gold...is good" / (6:2) the daughters...were attractive" / (15:15) "a good old age" / (16:6) "do as you please"

Its use in Genesis 1 = 7x / God, Himself, evaluates *everything* He made as "good"—right, fitting, pleasant, delightful, the way it should be, perfect

"To affirm that the creation is 'good,' then, is to affirm that God takes delight in it and that man at his best will do so as well." (*Genesis 1-4*, C. John Collins, p. 69)

What does this include?

- that God has made what He has made
- what God has made
- how God has made what He has made
- the relationship of all that He has made, both in reference to Him and in reference to each part

ESV **1 Timothy 4:4** For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

As it relates to us...

- God creating humans is very good
- God creating humans *as uniquely unique* among all His creation is very good
- God creating humans uniquely *to relate to* Him is very good
- God creating humans uniquely *over* all the other creatures is very good