



I. Review

“the fact that man is in the image of God means that man is like God and represents God.”¹

We mirror the glory of God as moral, rational, and representative creatures (Genesis 9:5-7; 16). These are the grounds for rejecting abortion, racism, tribalism, and class warfare. It is the reason to serve the needs of the sick, the weak, and the marginalized. It is the basis for establishing individual human rights.

Isaiah 24:4-6 warns the world of a coming judgment because of breaking the “everlasting covenant.” Mankind’s intrinsic and objective worth demands justice and mercy.

God upholds justice and releases mercy to humankind through the gospel (Romans 5:6-21).

II. Representative / Dominion

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. (Genesis 1:26)

God blessed them. And God 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.” (Genesis 1:28)

Man is the vicegerent of God, crowned with glory and honor (Psalm 8:5-6).

We are called to represent him in the world as we bring forth order, life, and beauty. You have **glorious purpose!** Your actions have eternal significance.

III. Our deep desire for impact:

We all have a deep desire to make an impact. We want to succeed in life and do something meaningful. This is a God-given desire that stems from being created in his image. You are called to reign with him and extend his blessing to creation.

Adam and Eve were blessed to be a blessing and serve the creation. This is repeated in the story of Abraham. Through godly government, people rejoice.

“When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan” (Proverbs 29:2)

IV. The distortion of our desires:

Our deep desires are connected to our creation and purpose but they were corrupted by sin.

¹ Grudem, Wayne. Systematic Theology, Second Edition: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine (p. 567). Kindle Edition.

Sin distorts our desires so that we seek to satisfy them independent of God. Our desire for meaning and impact is distorted in the following ways:

1. We believe that what we do or accomplish is what gives us worth
2. We believe that we are worthless when we have less status
3. Therefore, we use worldly impact in order to establish our worth and to boast in ourselves instead of the grace of God. Or, we withdraw and do not serve others, believing the lie that our actions are meaningless.

We do not become acceptable or valuable through our works. And what we build through independence, for vainglory, is not eternal.

Our worth derives from being made in God's image. Sin corrupts our desires and drives us toward independence, tarnishing that image.

The Truth: Greatness is when God extends his blessing to the world through you. It is when faith is working through love and you are serving God and others. Such service from dependence and humility redounds, not to our glory, but to the glory of God. You are called to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14-16).

♦ **Embracing Service: (Luke 22:25-27)**

If you choose service in love, you will find meaning and fulfill purpose. If you choose the way of pride, you will come up empty, and your works will be burned up.

V. Sons of God

The “image” is a statue that resembles the thing it represents. The term Son of God correlates to this in that it means that the son is the likeness of their father.

Does your worth come from your identity as a son or daughter of God or from what you have achieved for God?

How has God called you to serve and find meaning?

Genesis 5:3 echoes that of Genesis 1:26. Seth is imaging Adam and inheriting his rule. This is essentially why Adam is called the Son of God in Luke 3:38.

Adam was the image, representation, and ruler on behalf of God in the world. This is also why the Messiah is called the Son of God (2 Sam 7:14). YHWH's Messiah is the new Adam in whom humanity is restored to sonship.

The calling to sonship and dominion are restored in Christ Jesus (John 1:12-13; Rev. 2:25-28; Romans 8).