



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

- Gen 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”



In the Beginning

- On day #6 God is going to form man out of the dust of the ground – so why is man above the animal when they were both formed out of the ground?
- Because in Gen 2:7 we read, “He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person”, or a “living soul” (KJV).
- **Man becomes the first living thing with a spirit and is the only living thing that is self-conscious.**



In the Beginning

- So what does it mean to be “self conscious”?
- *As people we are aware of our presence morally, spiritually, and environmentally – another way to say this is that we know that we exist.*
- We think about our existence, we contemplate our future existence, and we think about things like cause and affect.



In the Beginning

- *We also have a sense that our existence matters and that what we do in life has at least an echo in eternity.*
(according to Solomon, God set eternity in the hearts of men)
- We, mankind, are able to appreciate beauty and art – how things look matters to us. Making improvements or changes to our world matters to us.
- We can think abstractly and we ponder the morality of our actions especially when we sin.





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We act as if we were simply dropped down in creation and have to decide how to entertain ourselves until we die. But we were sent into the world by God, just as Jesus was. Once we start living our lives with that conviction, we will soon know what we were sent to do

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In the Beginning

- It should not take us by surprise that we have qualities and properties about us that are unique because we are the only creature made in the image of God.
- *Images are created for the sole purpose of imaging – to show off the one from whom the image originates. (Luke 20:24 "Show me a Roman coin. Whose picture and title are stamped on it?" "Caesar's," they replied. 25 "Well then," he said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.")*
- We should celebrate the one whose image it is that we bear, and perhaps more importantly we should seek to be people who show God to the world.



In the Beginning

- *Think about a mirror...* when you look in a mirror what do you see?
- You see an image of yourself – an exact image of yourself that is an exact likeness of who you are. The image you see is not you, but wow does it look like you!
- *That's what God had in mind when He made us – beings who would reflect His glory in this world. (an exact likeness of Him)*



In the Beginning

- *An exact likeness of Him? Now leave behind any ideas of a physical likeness we are to represent God's nature and character.*
- *Imago Dei – we are made in the image of God in that we are actually capable of relating and behaving like Him.*
- *We are capable and we are answerable for how well we bear His image.*



In the Beginning

- Man reflects the Lord and therefore is not the Lord. We are creatures, and, consequently, we are dependent, finite, and derived.
- *We occupy a sacred space in creation because nothing else was made in the Creator's image.*
- Man is distinguished from the animals. We are subordinate only to the Lord, not to the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. (we rule over God's creation)



In the Beginning

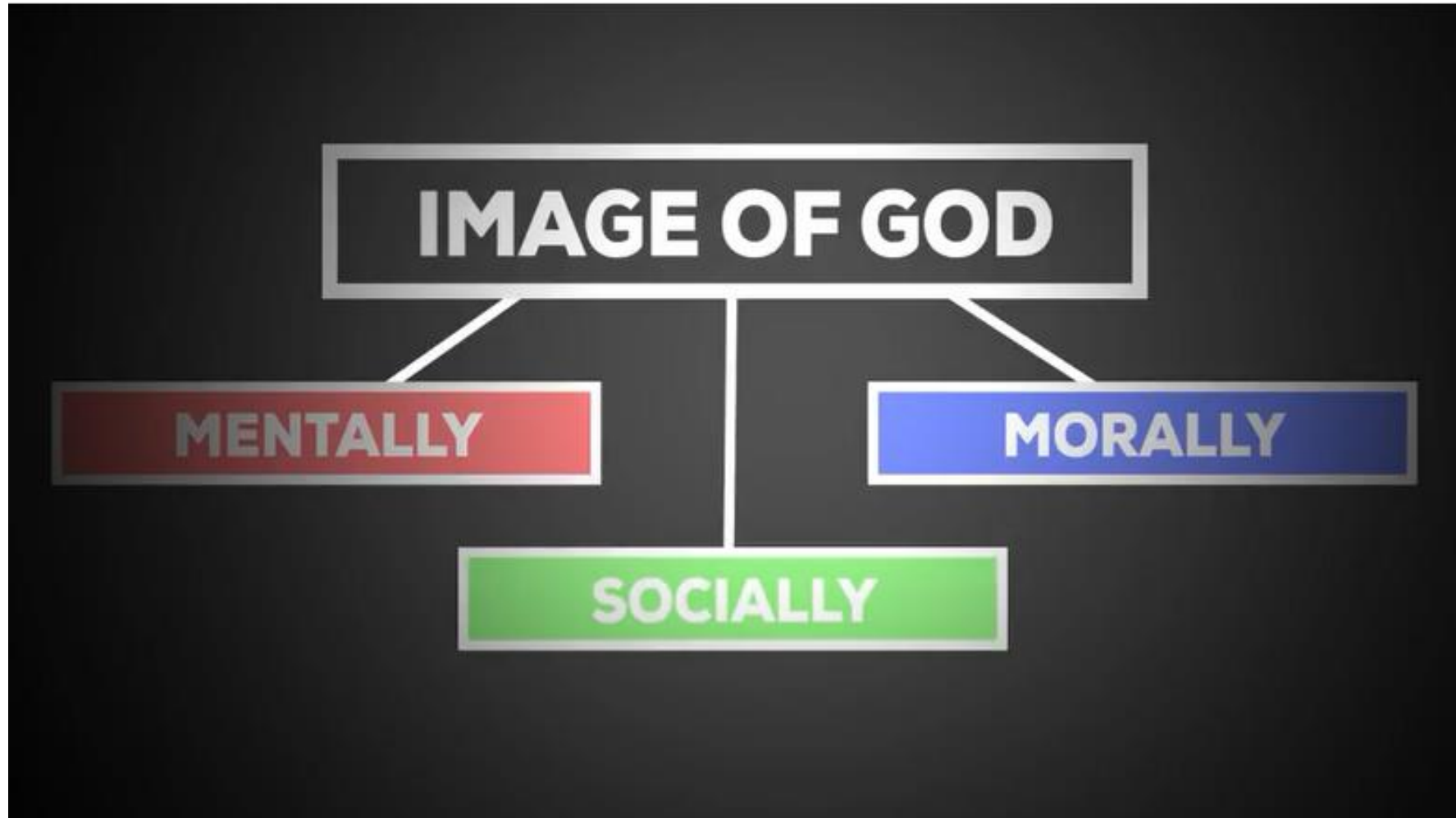
- *With our position of “ruler” on the earth comes great responsibility – we are to be caretakers of all that God created.*
- What we often mock in the modern day environmental movement is not without at least a shadow of what God intended.
- We see the extremes of Green Peace and other radical environmental groups, but the underlying impulse to care for the creation is God-given.



Imago Dei



Imago Dei



In the Beginning

- “**Mentally**, humanity was created as a rational, volitional agent. In other words, human beings can reason and choose. This is a reflection of God’s intellect and freedom. Anytime someone invents a machine, writes a book, paints a landscape, enjoys a symphony, calculates a sum, or names a pet, he or she is proclaiming the fact that we are made in God’s image.” from gotquestions.org



In the Beginning

- **Morally**, humanity was created in righteousness and perfect innocence, a reflection of God's holiness. God saw all He had made (humanity included) and called it "very good" (Genesis 1:31). Our conscience or "moral compass" is a vestige of that original state. Whenever someone writes a law, recoils from evil, praises good behavior, or feels guilty, he or she is confirming the fact that we are made in God's own image." from gotquestions.org



In the Beginning

“The standard that measures two things is something different from either. You are, in fact, comparing them both with some “Real” morality, admitting that there is such a thing as a real “Right”, independent of what people think, and that some people's ideas get nearer to that real “Right” than others.” C.S. Lewis



In the Beginning

- “**Socially**, humanity was created for fellowship. This reflects God's triune nature and His love. In Eden, humanity's primary relationship was with God (Genesis 3:8 implies fellowship with God), and God made the first woman because “it is not good for the man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). Every time someone marries, makes a friend, hugs a child, or attends church, he or she is demonstrating the fact that we are made in the likeness of God.” from gotquestions.org



In the Beginning

- Perhaps the most important part of the Imago Dei is that it points to a personal being who can relate to God and to others.
- We were made to be in relationships – we can feel, we can converse, we can laugh, we can cry, we can think, and we can create.
- All of those qualities and others come directly from being created in the image of God.



In the Beginning

- Think about the ability to speak and have languages that allow us to communicate with each other as an Imago Dei characteristic.
- There are roughly 5,000 different languages in the world and have you ever heard a dog, cat, or monkey speaking English or French?
- Animals are incapable of learning languages – on the other hand, humans are quite capable and when the stakes are really high (say communicating the gospel), God even gives the gift of tongues to bridge language barriers.



In the Beginning

- “We can say that although God Himself has no physical body, He designed and formed man’s body to enable it to function physically in ways in which He Himself could function without a body. God can see, hear, smell, (according to Genesis 8:21), He can touch and He can speak, whether or not He has actual physical eyes, ears, nose, hands or mouth. Furthermore, when He has chosen to appear visibly to man, He has done so in the form of a human body, such as in Genesis chapter 18, and the same would be true of angels. They are spirits and there are occasions when they take on bodies. There is something about the human body, therefore, which is uniquely appropriate to God manifesting Himself on occasions. He must have designed man’s body with this in mind.” Henry Morris
- So we do not look physically like God, but the fact that we have bodies like we do may say something about how God likes to function.



In the Beginning

- 2nd Cor 3:18 So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.
- We were created to be like Him, but fell into ruin – however, God made a way for us to be redeemed. (restored)
- As we cooperate with Him, we are conformed more and more to the bearers of His image He had in mind from the start.



In the Beginning

- Rom 8:29 *For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son,* so that He (Jesus) would be the firstborn among many brethren.
- Mankind is unique in that we are the only part of creation made in God's image.
- *And mankind is unique in that we are the only part of creation that lives on eternally.*



In the Beginning

- Rev 17:8 “And the people who belong to this world, whose names were not written in the Book of Life before the world was made” A clear reference to the pre-planning of God for redemption.
- So before God ever created anything, He already had a plan of redemption for people.
- Names written in the “Book of Life” is not said about any other part of creation but mankind.



In the Beginning

- The creation of the universe may have been merely the creating of the stage for His plan of redemption to play out.
- 2nd Tim 1:9 For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. *He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.*
- Shake off those old notions that your salvation is first and foremost about you, for our salvation is first and foremost about Him!



In the Beginning

- Titus 1:1 This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives. 2 ***This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began.***
- Eph 1:4 ***Even before He made the world,*** God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. 5 ***God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family*** by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. ***This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.***



In the Beginning

- *Redeemed mankind is the love gift of the Father and promised to the Son*, and it was planned before there ever was a universe.
- John 6:37 However, *those the Father has given me* will come to me, and I will never reject them.
- John 17:9 “My prayer is not for the world, *but for those you have given me*, because they belong to you. 10 All who are mine belong to you, *and you have given them to me*, so they bring me glory.”



In the Beginning

- And then in the end, the Son turns over the kingdom and all of its subjects to the Father
- 1st Cor 11:24 After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. 25 For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. 26 And the last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For the Scriptures say, “God has put all things under his authority.” (Of course, when it says “all things are under his authority,” that does not include God himself, who gave Christ his authority.) 28 Then, when all things are under his authority, the Son will put himself under God’s authority, so that God, who gave his Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere.



In the Beginning

- Let's return to this idea – “mankind is unique in that we are the only part of creation that lives on eternally.”
- Having known in advance that mankind would fall into ruin, and that a plan of redemption would be necessary, God did not create the universe to be indestructible, but perishable.
- Ultimately the part of creation we can see today that is of the highest importance is mankind – every thing else will perish.



In the Beginning

- Gen 1:27 So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.
- So the question arises – did God make Adam, then Eve, and then more humans, or did He create just Adam and Eve?
- The scriptures are quite clear on this question.



In the Beginning

- Gen 2:7 Then the Lord God formed *the man* from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and *the man* became a living person.
- Gen 2:20 He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. *But still there was no helper just right for him.*
- Gen 2:22 *Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib,* and He brought her to the man.



In the Beginning

- It would seem that the plain sense of the text is that God made Adam, then He made Eve, and from that one pair came all other humans.
- We will pick up next week with the creation of woman – when was she created, and are women really different from men?
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Questions

