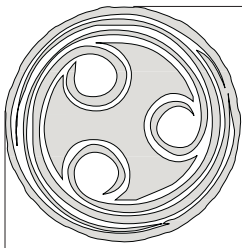


The Glory of God and the Significance of Man Genesis 1:26-27



sermonnotes

Introduction

We looked last week at the fact that God created the universe (Genesis 1:1), and then prepared the earth for life (since it appeared to be uninhabitable Genesis 1:2) So far we have observed Genesis as a corrective to many false views of reality. God (singular, not plural) created the universe; He is not part of it. As many monistic (everything is one) religions of the ancient landscape argue. The earth, water, trees, plants, and animals are not gods, but created by the one God for the sustaining enjoyment of the living creations He brought in to being. And all matter created was "good," separating the biblical creation story from ancient dualism that matter is evil, but the spirit is good. Simply, God created and God sustains, and all is because of God. Just the thought of that should bow our knees. He is creator, He is perfecter, He alone is God, and now we will look at the fact that He alone is to be gloried! It begins with the question of origins. Where did we come from? We are created for His glory (Isaiah 43:7). That purpose is best seen in the man Jesus Christ. God's plan, including the fall, was to glorify Himself (Isaiah 45:7; Philippians 1:21).

From The Head...

We Are Created In His Image

There is much ink spilt on what the image of God is. Is it the ability to love, relate, speak, think, express ourselves, create, etc? Many animals can do much of the above-mentioned, negating these as the sole explanation of God's image. The image is not what we do, as much as it is who we are. Calvin comments that we are mirror reflections of God. We are NOT God, but we are His representatives to this world. Many social biologists want to treat mankind as an evolved animal, negating the worth of humanity and downgrading it to the level of the animal kingdom. The fact is we would be no different than an animal if it weren't for the significance that we have as the image bearers of God. It is because of this that we have significance, and every man and woman has dignity. Although this image is marred in the fall, all of mankind should be treated with this dignity no matter how evil we may think they are (James 3:9). I believe that this text demands are commitment to life for the born and unborn. We have worth because God has given us worth, not because of our status in life.

We are Created to Rule

Not only do we have worth, but we are purposed to rule and have dominion over the rest of God's creation. God has given us the plants and the animals for our pleasure and our sustenance. This does not mean that we should abuse the environment or any of God's creation. We are stewards of what God has given us. We are going to talk about this purpose more next week, but suffice it to say that we are created to image God by loving and stewarding His creation and enjoying and being satisfied in our created purpose, which brings great glory to God. John Piper writes, "God is most glorified in us, when we are most satisfied in Him."

We are Created Male and Female

It is no mistake that the image of God is both male and female. Ephesians 5:22ff begins to paint a story about the reason why God made man, and made man male and female. In speaking of the "mystery" of marriage (when God created man and woman there was no way Adam and Eve understood all of God's glorious purpose), the author reminds us that marriage points us to Christ, which is the answer that saves man from the fall into sin, and brings ultimate glory to God (see John 17). The opposites of male and female remind us of the diversity within the Trinity ("let us make man"), and the unity of the godhead. When we appropriate men and women's roles within the family and the church, we begin to point of the ultimate consummation of the universe in Christ.

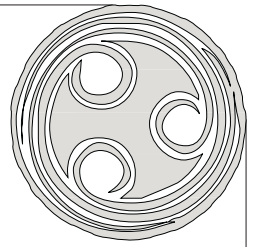
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Next week we will be continuing with an understanding of our purpose in Christ and God's plans for His creation, but it is enough to know that we are not God. We are created for a purpose, and because of that we have worth inherent to the individual created by God in His image (Psalm 8). Until you begin to understand this part of what it means to be human, you will never be able to express that worth to others and feel that worth for yourself, so you'll continue to think either too highly of yourself, or too lowly. You will never experience the satisfaction and joy that God has intended for all of His creation!

sermonnotes

... To The Heart



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