

1

Genesis week 8
Genesis 1:-2
God created Man in His Own Image – pt 3

There is a principle I heard of years ago, and it sounds quite logical.
“If a rocket is lined up just a few inches off course at the launch pad, by the time it reaches outer space it will be miles and miles off course.
Unless there is a control mechanism that can be operated remotely from the command center you can’t course correct and the rocket veers to an undesired destination.

The same is true for human culture that veers off course from the Creational Order. Without a course correction we end up in a social environment that is hostile to human flourishing and our intended design.
No analogy is perfect but it seems that this is what happened in the realm of humanity. We got off course from the Created Order. To get back on course we need to rediscover and embrace our God given design.

We need Biblical truth to be affirmed and explained from pulpits and around dinner tables.
Sadly, that is not happening today.

3

As Thomas Sowell, a brilliant public intellectual, social theorists, former Marxist, and author notes...
“When you want to help people, you tell them the truth. When you want to help yourself, you tell them what they want to hear.”
<https://www.westernjournal.com/unknown-story-thomas-sowell-marxist-became-conservative-champion-generation/>

The underlying issues didn’t start in 1966, but the terms and ideas that wouldn’t have been imagined just a few years ago are all over the culture. This didn’t just happen overnight, but it got a boost with this cover in TIME MAGAZINE – APRIL 1966

5



That magazine cover and question fell on our society like a bomb. It wasn’t the first time that people had heard of atheism, but for it to be headlined in TIME magazine was startling. It indicated the direction the public theology was heading. We were heading toward the cynical skepticism that had captured Europe in its so-called enlightened atheistic mindset.

What starts at the high level of cultural and academic elites has a way of trickling down over the years. The serpent’s question, “Has God said?” has trickled down from Gen 3 to the year 2023. “Is God Dead?” has trickled down from 1966 to 2023, and the result of both has been confusion, despair, and chaos. The result is not an absence of worship but a change in the object of our worship. We live in a world where the functional religion is self-worship. Forget being in God’s image; we are the authority to reimagine ourselves into any image we like.

EX: that is how a 50 yr old man in Canada ends up competing in a swim race with 13-14 yr old girls <https://www.theblaze.com/news/50yroid-male-swimming-teen-girls>

Since the Garden in Gen 3, Man in God’s Image has been challenged by ‘God in man’s image.’

EX: the 7 words that should raise a red flag are “I like to think of God as...”

Friends, God IS NOT DEAD and HE HAS GRACIOUSLY given us His True Word for how life works. If we, who are made in His image, seek Him, as He is revealed in His good instruction, we will be on the path to knowing God and knowing ourselves.

7	<p>Genesis 1: 26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ... 31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.</p> <p>2:18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.” ... 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23 The man said, “<i>This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.</i>” 24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.</p>
14	<p>Last week I mentioned three views about the concept of “In His Image”. One of those was the functional view, according to which humans act like God in their divinely given role to rule the earth. The immediate context, with the language of dominion, suggests that the functional interpretation seems primary.</p> <p>In this passage there are five key IMPERATIVES that reflect our Function as those in God’s image.</p>
16	<p>“And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘<i>Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion</i> over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth’” (v. 28).</p> <p>The image of God is expressed in a binary plurality of male – female indicating that these imperatives are a joint function of the man and the woman.</p>
17	<p>The primary necessity for carrying out this multi-faceted Divine Mandate is PROCREATION.</p> <p>Fulfilling the mandate to ‘<i>Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.</i>’ takes both a man and a woman.</p>
18	<p>This truth has abiding relevance in several ways:</p> <p>#1 Sadly, human societies have reversed the mandate through the practice of killing of the weak and vulnerable and avoiding procreation.. Rather than promoting life, societies throughout history have promoted death: Child sacrifice, killing those deemed unfit for life, weeding out the undesirables through Eugenics or genocide, state run euthanasia programs as in Canada, abortion for convenience or for ‘reproductive health’, and sterilization by force or through “affirming health care” are all means by which this creation mandate has been reversed.</p> <p>Another way is when societies choose to have fewer or no children for reasons of lifestyle, politics, to curb the population growth, or to limit the number of children a couple may legally produce. EX: D-I-N-K-S MARRIAGE RATES AND BIRTH RATES in decline. https://www.bbc.com/news/health-53409521 https://www.cbsnews.com/news/birth-rate-declining-younger-generations-crisis/ EX: “Fertility Rate: ‘Jaw-dropping’ global crash in children being born”</p>

	<p>The long-term global impact is not good when the demographic pyramid gets inverted i.e. there are more people over 75 than under age 10. The economic and societal issues are huge when you start to examine the long-term impact.</p> <p>Countries such as Spain, Italy, Portugal, S. Korea, and Japan are facing major issues. Even China is looking at a bleak future because there are so many more men than women due to social policies forced upon the citizens.</p>
20	<p>Scripture reminds us that procreation is at the very heart of God’s creation purpose and mandate for humanity as male and female.</p>
21	<p>#2 The second way in which this creation order and mandate is relevant is seen all around us in daily headlines related to The Binary Male-Female distinction, which is at the heart of Creational Norms.</p>
22	<p>As we look at the heart of the issue, we must keep in mind that all of our hearts need the love of God that is experienced through repentant faith in Jesus Christ. There is a message of GOOD NEWS to all of us who struggle with the brokenness resulting from sin.</p> <p>https://truthxchange.com/resource-library/articles/christian-witness-in-the-public-square-its-complicated/</p>
	<p>No matter how biblical sexuality may be distorted in practice, the inherent Image of God remains in each person. It is the reality of the kindness, forbearance and patience of God that leads to repentance. If we take this lightly and ignore the call to repentance then God warns that we are storing up wrath for ourselves in the day of the revelation of the righteous judgment of God. (Rom 2:4-5)</p> <p>In a world where confusion is rampant, children and adults are being harmed by a false narrative about the nature of the Male-Female distinction. Speaking clearly on this IS NOT an attempt to cast judgement, but rather to help us see the holistic account of what God says about the flourishing of human relationships.</p> <p>Too often we fail to connect the dots between our view of Creation and our view of Human sexuality. Dr. Peter Jones at TruthXchange is helpful with this.</p>
24	<p>According to Scripture, the world is the work of an external Creator who caringly made it but is separate and different from it. We have a hetero-cosmology (a binary worldview based on otherness and difference- ‘TWOISM’), not a homo-cosmology (the nonbinary blending of all things- ‘Oneism’). Oneism-cosmology has nothing to worship except the creation itself, since it rejects the God who made the world and put distinctions within it. As the Apostle Paul argued, we worship either the Creator or the creation (Romans 1:25).</p>
25	<p>How have these two fundamental worldviews worked themselves out in recent culture with regard to sexuality? People now speak of non-binary spirituality and non-binary sexuality. They are clearly related. Non-binary spirituality believes everything is God and that there is no divine, separate Creator. Non-binary sexuality holds to androgynous sex, in which there are no ultimate sexual distinctions. A Binary, distinction-making perspective is the foundation of the gospel. God the</p>
26	<p>Creator, totally other from us, in his Son, identifies with created reality, dies to pay the price of sin, but remains distinct from the creation. Binary sexuality witnesses to this truth in its own way, since we are made in God’s image, distinctly male and female.</p>
27	<p>Jesus - “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” John 8:31</p> <p>True freedom come from knowing and continuing in God’s Word.</p>

28	<p>Re: Thomas Sowell – When we want to help people, we will tell them the truth. That has never been more important than today. The truth is vital because lies are rampant when it comes to Creational Norms. It is not popular to speak biblical truth regarding issues of morality. It never has been. The NT values related to love, marriage, sexuality, husband and wife relationships were counter-cultural when Paul, Peter, and John wrote them. They are counter-cultural today, but they are needed.</p> <p>Rosario Butterfield speaks clearly to our current day as she seeks to expose <u>Five Lies of our Anti-Christian Age</u>. She speaks so clearly because for years she was trapped in some of those lies. Her desire is to help others find true freedom in the Truth of God’s Word.</p> <p>Two of those lies relate to the Male-Female distinction of God’s created order. The deceiver would have us believe two specific lies at this time: 1) Homosexuality is normal 2) Transgenderism is normal Those ideas are man-centered attempts to reverse Creational norms.</p> <p>We don’t have time to unpack those, but I recommend Rosario’s book. The sermon notes will be posted, and there will be a resource list that you may find helpful.</p>
30	<p>Friends, if God is dead (TIME 1966) or if we simply ignore the divine revelation and reality, then we are saying, “I want to have the final say in how life works.” That is a recipe for chaos, and the enemy of our souls loves chaos.</p> <p>Satan wants to change the created order of “God makes man in His image” to “Man makes God after his own image” i.e. we become like God.</p>
31	<p>Here’s a glimpse of what the chaos looks like when we all seek to remake God and the world after OUR FALLEN IMAGE: This is what happens when society is given over to its commitment to suppressing the truth in unrighteousness – Rom 1:18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Decalogue of the Cult of Self Worship</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You are to act in accord of your chief end to glorify and enjoy yourself forever. # live your best life. here to enjoy yourself; do what you desire most - not WCFSC #1 glorify and enjoy self forever. 94 % think answers are within 2. Thou shalt never be outdated but always live on the edge of the new. #OK Boomer ageist " not cool" 3. Thou shalt obey your emotions at all costs - #Follow your heart. 4. Thou shalt be courageous enough to defy other people’s expectations - # Be true to yourself 5. Thou shalt live your truth and let others live theirs - # You do you 6. Thou shalt pursue the rush of boundary free experience #YOLO 7. Thou shalt trust yourself never letting anyone oppress you with the outdated notion of being a sinner #The answers are within. 8. Thou shalt invent and advertise thine own identity - # authentic self 9. Thou shalt force the universe to bend to your desires - # live the dream 10. Thou shalt celebrate all lifestyles as equally valid #Love is Love. <p style="text-align: center;">Thaddeus Williams – <u>Don’t Follow Your Heart</u></p>
36	<p>If these 10 principles sound reasonable and worthwhile, then we are on the path of the cult of self. We are putting ourselves in the place of God, and frankly, we are not qualified for the job.</p> <p>“Become an atheist of yourself. Be honest about your own pretended deity. “ - T. Williams</p> <p>If we truly want to become who we were designed to be, it will ONLY be by following the design of the One who created us in His Image.</p>

RESOURCE LIST

Beckett Cook podcasts or youtube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_TgpOoHWBs origins of gender ideology

<https://www.youtube.com/@BecketCook/videos>

Ep 124, 125,126,128,

Kevin DeYoung podcast – Life & Books & Everything Ep 136 Rosario Butterfield

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCPge_h1Sn4

Java with Juli for parents teaching sexual discipleship re: LGBTQ issues

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/3dJjiA1kPNfxir6dYXfCrc>

TruthXchange

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAOS9xpuUj8>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfZj84A_DqY

<https://truthxchange.com/resource-library/sexuality/>

<https://truthxchange.com/resource-library/one-ism-or-two-ism-a-world-view-catechism/>

<https://truthxchange.com/resource-library/sexuality/>

New Reformation Catechism on Human Sexuality

<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/posts/a-catechism-on-human-sexuality/>

<https://www.escondidourc.org/speaker/pastor-rev-christopher-gordon/>

PCA PAPER ON SEXUALITY

https://www.pcahistory.org/pca/digest/studies/2021_human_sexuality_report.pdf

--	--