



Sermon Series: Who Am I? Small Group Notes for Sunday 5 January 2025 Created in God's Image - Gen 1:26-31

You may want to begin by pulling up the words for the song 'What Was I Made For?' by Billie Eilish that won awards at the Grammys, Golden Globe, and Oscars. What about this song do you think has connected with people? What might raise concerns?

Why do you think people today have such a longing for identity? Has anything encouraged this, or has this longing always been part of the human condition?

How would you contrast our culture's understanding of identity and desire with what the Bible says?

Read Gen 1:26-31

What does this passage say about identity? What does it mean for us to be made in the image of God?

This is often divided into three categories. The first quickly gets into the realm of philosophy and the second and third are more clearly linked to our passage.

Substantive – The image of God is found within characteristics shared between God and humanity like rationality or morality. This is the most subjective of the three.

Relational – The image of God refers to our ability to be in relationship with God and each other.

Functional – The image of God refers to the role humans serve in the created order.

Where do you see these categories at play in our passage?

How would you describe the difference or similarity between humans and the rest of the animal kingdom?

Image of God Broken and Restored

The image of God both persists in our capacity as human beings (Gen 9:6, James 3:9), is also broken, but can be restored with Jesus as our example (Col 3:9-10, 2 Cor 4:4).

How do each of the following persist in our capacity, but are clearly broken at the same time?

Relationship with God, Relationship with Others, Work, Creativity, Mental ability, Morality

Have you ever found life much easier when you figured out how something was made to function? What example of this can you think of?

To be made in the image of God bestows great value...

Read Exodus 20:4

Why was it so wrong to represent God in the form of a carving of wood or stone?

Read Genesis 1:26

The word 'image' here can also be translated as idol. How might the ancient understanding of idols, and how Israel were to treat them, connect with God's image being in humanity?

What does this say about how much God's values humanity?

Read Genesis 5:3

The idea of a child looking like a parent is also implied here. Again how does this give great value to humanity over other things that God has created?

Made for relationship...

Read Genesis 1:26-28

How do you see relationship at the core of God's nature in these verses?

We have been made to relate to God and to other people. When have you seen this or felt this yourself?

Made to make... in this we have our need for creativity, work, and even physical fitness

Read Genesis 1:26-30

What does this passage say about the importance of work?

How does this contrast with the attitude toward work we might often see?

In what ways can you see that we are hardwired to create, build, or work?

Our world is often ordered in a way that doesn't line up with how we have been made. This can be from being part of a post-industrial culture where we are simply cogs in a machine. Where productivity and management of time is all that matters. Where can you see examples of how the world is ordered in a way that doesn't fit well with how we are made?

Much of what can be said about the image of God could be said to someone that is struggling with depression, or just feels down. Below is a description of the image of God that was used on Sunday. How might this echo advise that is often given to people?

"You were made to be in relationship with people, to be creative, to work, to be in relationship with God, to use your mental abilities in a way that distinguishes you from the rest of creation, to use your moral abilities to live in a way that is right, to understand yourself, God, and world around you.

The image of God is fundamental to being fully human or living in the way that God created you to live.

And specifically, from our passage: you have great value to God, you were made to be in relationship with God and others, and you are made to work, build and create."

Shawn