

“Image Bearers” **Genesis 1:26-31**

Contrast these worldviews: Freud, “I have found little that is "good" about human beings on the whole. In my experience most of them are trash, no matter whether they publicly subscribe to this or that ethical doctrine or to none at all.” Lawrence M. Krauss, an atheistic physicist and cosmologist says, "Human beings are just a bit of pollution. If you got rid of us, and all the stars and all the galaxies and all the planets and all the aliens and everybody, then the universe would be largely the same. We're completely irrelevant." G.K. Chesterton, “All men matter. You matter. I matter. It's the hardest thing in theology to believe.”

Bearing God’s image does not mean we look like God but that we possess a spiritual capacity that makes us moral creatures who can know and worship God. As spiritual beings we have a desire for fellowship with him. The more we understand God, the more we understand what it is to be in his image. But what about the fall? The image was distorted but not lost. Redemption leads to a progressive recovering of God’s image which will be fully realized at Christ’s return.

Bearing God’s image affects how we value life (26-27).

God did not need to create man yet he did for his own glory. Is. 43:7, “Everyone who is called by my name I created for my glory.” If we are important to God for all eternity, what greater measure of significance could we want? So, we are called to fulfill the reason we were created: to bear his image. Human life is the most precious and sacred thing in the world. There is great dignity as bearers of God’s image. We are more like the creator than all of the rest of creation. We belong to God. In Mark 12:13-17 Jesus states that we are to render to Caesar what is Caesar’s (money) because it bears his image and to God what is God’s (life) because we bear his image. This means that all people must be treated with the respect of being God’s image bearer no matter race, age, mental capacity, or whether or not they have exited the womb. The reason the value of human life has been depreciated is because we have increasingly denied our status as God’s image bearers. This perverse and dangerous line of thinking has caused our society to lose much of our sense of life’s meaning. There are no ordinary people, every man, woman, and child have a special worth. Yet we see more coverage of

the destruction of a bird species' habitat than we do the wholesale slaughter and sale of the unborn.

Bearing God's image affects how we view gender roles (27).

In a world where we have blurred if not thrown away gender roles and become so perverse that we give Bruce Jenner awards for becoming Kaitlyn, this is huge. Gender role confusion and chaos is dangerous! Notice that from the very beginning that the differences in Gender are by design and reflect God's image and goodness. God ordained gender roles should be celebrated and explained. True masculinity and femininity are freeing not oppressing. Each sex is equally important and valuable to God even if they are different in roles. Notice that these roles are pre-fall not just the result of sin. Adam was created first. Eve as his help mate. Satan's temptation to Eve was among other things a temptation to reverse gender roles.

Bearing God's image affects how we understand dominion (27-31).

In a world where organizations like PETA are even given a voice without being dismissed as patently ridiculous, we need to revisit man's God-given Biblical dominion. God is the true king but he delegates some of his dominion to us. Our dominion is and responsibility is given by God. The way we use, manage, and care for the earth. Environmentalist agenda must be clearly checked and their claims investigated. Remember, we are not just one of thousands of natural resources but the pinnacle of creation.

How long has it been since you thought about how incredible you are in the eyes of God?