

Understanding the Significance of Man

Genesis 1:26-31

Who does the “us” refer to?

Genesis 1:26

Option #1: The Trinity

- Scripture clearly teaches that the one God is made up of three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:18-20*
- It would not be an unbiblical idea to say that *Genesis 1:26* is describing God as referring to himself as a Trinity.
- This option is the traditional interpretation of bible believers.

Option #2: God and the Heavenly Beings

- The use of “us” as referring to God in the Old Testament could point to God and the heavenly beings and not the Trinity. *Genesis 3:22, Genesis 11:7, Isaiah 6:8*
- There is in Scripture the idea that the angels were with God when he did the work of creation. *Job 38:4-7*

What is the Image of God?

Genesis 1:26-27

Rationality

Man can reason and have a personal relationship with his creator. *Acts 17:28*

Moral Sensibility

There is a moral sense of right and wrong built into man. *Romans 2:14*

How are we to understand the command to be fruitful?

Genesis 1:28

- The command to fill the earth would seem have its obvious application when the earth was unpopulated.
- Scripture does assume that a couple will have children. *1 Timothy 3:4*
- A couple determines if they will have children and how many by God-glorifying reasoning.

What does it mean for man to “rule” over God’s creation?

Genesis 1:28

What it does NOT mean

Creation Mandate

- Our model is not Israel under the Old Covenant where all of society was ordered by the Lord. *Exodus 35:1-2, Leviticus 19:9-10*
- In the New Covenant era the transformation of society is not the primary purpose of God’s law, the law of Christ. *Ephesians 6:5-9, Matthew 5:13*

What it does mean

Stewardship

Man is to use the creation for his own purposes as he seeks to work out how to live for the glory of God. *1 Corinthians 10:31*

What does it mean that the creation is “good”?

Genesis 1:29-31

- All of creation is good and is good for our use as long as we use it for his glory.

- Asceticism is a denial that all of creation is good and ought to be rejected.
Colossians 2:20-23, 1 Corinthians 10:31