



In the Likeness of God

Genesis 1:26-2:3

Pastor John Sloan

Introduction: It is one of the most important doctrines of the faith: the *imago Dei*. Yet the phrase remains a puzzling one to nail down. One scholar says: "Every Christian theologian agrees that people are created in the image of God, but no one has been able to explain entirely what that means, at least to the satisfaction of all the others." The concept has been debated for centuries with authors of all stripes weighing in. But what about it can we know for sure?

01.

02.

03.

IN THE BEGINNING ... GRACE
[A Study through the First Half of Genesis]



1. How do we see the relational aspect of God's character on display in creation? What about in the rest of scripture?
2. Pollster George Gallup, Jr. once proclaimed: "Americans are the loneliest people in the world." Do you agree? Why do you think this is the case?
3. How do you deal with loneliness in your life?
4. What does it mean to *move culture forward*? How are Christians to be active in "filling out" creation?
5. How do you incorporate **rest** into your weekly rhythms? What is the greatest hindrance to spiritual rest?
6. In what ways do you find yourself striving to save yourself, instead of relying on Jesus' finished work? How will you grow in areas where your dependence on God is rarely seen?

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1. "Every Christian theologian agrees that people are created in the image of God, but no one has been able to explain entirely what that means, at least to the satisfaction of all the others."
Michael Wittmer
2. **01. To be made in God's image means that we are deeply relational beings, who long for intimacy with one another.**
3. "Read in the context of the Ancient Near East, this is a radical statement of a fundamental reordering of the structures of [the] cosmos." - Lee Humphreys
4. **02. Bearing God's image means being responsible to care for and "fill out" the earth in order to reflect the endless imagination of our Creator.**
5. Exercising dominion means "transforming untamed nature into a social environment by God's design." Richard Mouw
6. "If the earth is six to ten thousand years old, then virtually nothing we see outside of our solar system is real. All observational astronomy of distant heavenly objects is a fiction." Greg Koukl
7. "Unfortunately, because of these difficulties many preachers in our generation avoid preaching on Genesis 1. But this is a tragic omission." Sidney Greidanus
8. **03. As image bearers of God, men and women extend the glory of God through procreation.**

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