

# Genesis 1:26-31      The God That Holds

**You Together      02/19/17**

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*

*<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.*

*<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” <sup>29</sup> And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

*(Pastor prays)*

When you read Genesis 1: 26-31, you really can't help but be encouraged.

Here, in the sixth day of creation, God creates man and woman, thereby establishing the crown of His creation and giving dignity to all human life. This is the foundation of how we view life and pro-life. This is the foundation for a Biblical view of the sexes and what it means to be male and female in God's image.

This passage gives us the groundwork of the Gospel knowing that Christ will come to restore the image of God that will be damaged and fouled by our sin. And to think that God created humans while knowing what it would cost Him. This creation passage hints at the Gospel and the goodness of God. And so today, I want to offer you a word of encouragement that is less about you and your potential and more about God and His goodness.

God didn't design you to drown in a sea of struggles or a world of sorrows. You were created in God's image to reflect some of who He is – some of His goodness and glory. And where sin loses that, the Gospel of Christ restores it. God created you so that your life will bring honor to Him.

## **God Put You Together – He'll Keep You From Falling Apart**

### **You Were Created Intentionally**

Notice how the creation story of man opens in v. 26, completely different than the other acts of creation. The creation of man is different. When God created everything else, Moses tells us that God said, "Let there be..., and it was so."

Man was not created by words. In Genesis 2:7, the Lord formed man from the dust of the ground. Back in 1:26 you see the deliberation. "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Here you have a beautifully opaque picture of our triune God in perfect relationship, deliberating about the creation of man.

God didn't just speak (as He did in every other act of creation). There is a sense of consultation and extreme thoughtfulness and careful consideration as God created something unlike anything else He had created before. Creation of man and woman is done with great intentionality. Isn't that what the psalmist declared in Psalm 139:13-16?

*For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*

*<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.<sup>[a]</sup>*

*Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.*

*<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.*

*<sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.*

Knowing that we were created with such deliberation and intentionality informs us of a couple of things: 1) It impacts how we as Christians treat other people, all people, with respect, dignity and compassion – pointing to the Gospel; 2) It also informs and impacts how we treat ourselves. The Bible teaches that you are not your own; you were bought with a price to glorify God with your body. The truth is, you were created intentionally.

### **You Were Created to Be Known Personally**

Back in Genesis 1:26, *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.* What a beautiful thing to be created in the image of God, carrying the spark of the Divine. There's a part of you that God put there that yearns to know God. It's a part of you that prompts you to search for your maker. It's what made St. Augustine pray "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord and our heart is restless until it finds rest in thee."

Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 3:11, *He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart,* Do you know that in all the explorations in the deepest part of the world, there is no known people-group that doesn't worship *something*. God has created you to know Him. His love has sustained you and His grace has brought you within earshot of the Gospel so that you might know God personally through Jesus Christ. You were created intentionally to be known personally.

### **You Were Created To Be Used Spiritually**

Let's look back at verse 26. *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.* The word "likeness" modifies the word "image," to resemble, to be a representative of God on Earth. Even the word "dominion" is a clue that to be created in the image of God carries with it a certain responsibility.

Paul says that Christians are ambassadors for Christ. What I'm getting at is that since we are made in the image of God, our greatest calling in life is to be used for His

purposes. God created you as His representative to do things that matter to Him. God is interested in the things that matter.

So much of what we do in our lives, when it boils down to it, really just don't matter. Are you doing things that matter? Here are some diagnostic questions: How is God using you spiritually? Who are you investing your life in? Who are you memorizing Scripture with, or reading the Bible with? Who are you praying with and how many lost people do you know? There are a couple of families visiting Hickory Grove right now because someone took a moment and invited them to church. Who are you reaching out to? You were created in God's likeness to be used spiritually. Let me give you something else to consider.

### **You Were Created To Live Distinctively**

Verse 27 is poetry.

*<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.*

Created male and female. Created different from the animals, which goes against the trend in America; where people tend to treat animals like people and people like dogs. But more than that, v. 27 says that in the image of God, He created him, male and female He created them. Within the beauty and dignity of humanity, God created men and women differently with distinct roles and a clear dignity that reflects the image of God; and as a part of His creation, He made you to fulfill the role He assigned you in a God-honoring way. How do we do that?

1. We treat all people and each other with dignity and respect.
2. We fulfill our God-given roles.
3. We teach our children about Biblical masculinity and Biblical femininity.
4. We engage the culture with truth and love and humility.
5. You embrace your alien status. This world is not your home.

### **You Were Created To Trust Him Wholeheartedly**

When you step back from this creation account and you see how God provided for His creation and how God takes great care of that which He loves, don't you believe He will do the same for you? Jesus said, "Why do you worry about what you eat or what you wear? Look at the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added." God put you together; He will keep you from falling apart.

### **God Created Us To Live Joyfully**

Notice the description of God in v. 31. There's a great sense of satisfaction in His creation as He thinks on His creation. Our God is a God of Holiness, but He is also a God of Joy. In Luke 10, the disciples came rejoicing because they had power to do great things. Jesus said, "rejoice not in these things but that your name is recorded in Heaven." Jesus is said to have been rejoicing in the Holy Spirit: "All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Father except to whom the son reveals and today Jesus Christ has revealed himself to you as Savior and Lord."

It's the cross that binds up our wounds. The God who put you together will keep you from falling apart by the grace of Jesus Christ. Will you receive Him today?

*(Pastor shares the Gospel and prays)*