

Morning Sermon September 27, 2020  
"God's Blessed Image Bearers"  
Genesis 1:26-28

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, 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> Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:26–28 (NKJV)

I. Made in God's image -

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ... Genesis 1:26 A

<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. Genesis 1:27

1. Question: How are we made in God's image?

According to Scripture, and the account of our remaking after redemption; we are created in God's image in knowledge, righteousness and holiness –

A. Knowledge –

<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Colossians 3:10 (NKJV)

B. Righteousness and holiness –

<sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV)

2. These characteristics fit with the Old Testament Offices of:

- A. Prophet – Knowledge – he would give and teach God's Word
- B. Priest – Righteousness – he would offer up service and sacrifices
- C. King – good kings kept Israel worshipping God, bad ones led them to idols

All of these offices were "Anointed" offices, men holding these offices were anointed with oil and the Holy Spirit!

- 3. The title Christ meant "Anointed One" in reference to His special anointing with the Holy Spirit, and His holding all three of these anointed offices!

A. As Prophet Christ would restore us to knowledge of God –

<sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*. John 1:18 (NKJV)

B. As Priest Christ would offer up service and the perfect sacrifice to God -

<sup>26</sup> For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; <sup>27</sup> who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Hebrews 7:26–28 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. <sup>14</sup> For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10:12–14 (NKJV)

C. As King Christ leads us in true devotion to God –

<sup>14</sup> These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." Revelation 17:14 (NKJV)

- 4. No animal is created in God's image! From Genesis 1:26-28 we get the idea of the sanctity of human life, which is spoke about again in Genesis 9:5-6

<sup>5</sup> Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. <sup>6</sup> "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. Genesis 9:5–6 (NKJV)

*The idea of the sanctity of human life taught in Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 9:5-6 militates against:*

1. *Abortion, Euthanasia and the Quality of life Ethic ---*
2. *Cannibalism ...*
3. *Radical environmentalism that values plants and animals over human beings*
4. *The murderous ways of an ungodly world in general –*

<sup>12</sup> **There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 & 16:12 (NKJV)**

## *II. Given Dominion –*

*... let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” Genesis 1:26 B*

*... fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:28 B (NKJV)*

*In Rosemary Radford Ruether’s book, Sexism and God-Talk, the great sin is that man is over nature, or even God is over nature, dominion is sin! Not adultery, not murder, but dominion.*

*Our ungodly culture has grabbed on to this. The popular movie AVATAR, pictures Beautiful Blue Tall Thin people living in trees, living in harmony with nature. Bugs don’t bite them, they have no need for toilets, or toilet paper. No need for houses, buildings or even sidewalks. Evil is portrayed as cutting down trees, which the blue people worship!*

*Yet, God’s word gives us a different picture, how is God’s blessing pictured?*

<sup>19</sup> **Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19 (NKJV)**

1. *God’s blessing is pictured with a road, God’s curse, judgement is when nature is out of control –*

<sup>8</sup> **For it is the day of the LORD’s vengeance, The year of recompense for the cause of Zion. <sup>9</sup> Its streams shall be turned into pitch, And its dust into brimstone; Its land shall become burning pitch.**

<sup>10</sup> **It shall not be quenched night or day; Its smoke shall ascend forever.**

**From generation to generation it shall lie waste; No one shall pass through it forever and ever.**

<sup>11</sup> **But the pelican and the porcupine shall possess it, Also the owl and the raven shall dwell in it. And He shall stretch out over it The line of confusion and the stones of emptiness. <sup>12</sup> They shall call its nobles to the kingdom, But none *shall* be there, and all its princes shall be nothing. <sup>13</sup> And thorns shall come up in its palaces, Nettles and brambles in its fortresses; It shall be a habitation of jackals, A courtyard for ostriches. Isaiah 34:8–13 (NKJV)**

2. *Paradise is a garden that is cultivated -*

<sup>15</sup> **Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. Genesis 2:15 (NKJV)**

3. *Blessed is the tree that is planted –*

<sup>3</sup> **He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. Psalm 1:3 (NKJV)**

4. *Heaven has streets, walls and gates –*

<sup>10</sup> **And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Revelation 21:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> **Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: Revelation 21:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> **Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. Revelation 21:14–15 (NKJV)**

*God gives us boundaries, borders, rules to live by ...*

## *III. Blessed, and commanded to be fruitful and multiply –*

<sup>28</sup> **Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it;... Genesis 1:28 A**

1. *This is a blessing...*
2. *This is a command, the two things are not mutually exclusive...*
3. *Our world is not over-populated with human beings...*
4. *Farms are not evil ... we are commanded to subdue the earth!*

*Arnold Brevick*