

September 13, 2023

## Human Nature Created: The Image of God

### Goal for This Week

To articulate how the study of the Image of God needs to be transformational so we can know how to act faithfully as Christians. Theological reflection can only be transformational when we begin with God, remain with God, and end with God.

### Review from Last Week

Theological Reflection – \_\_\_\_\_

Because theological reflection should always begin, remain, and end with God, and because God has revealed Himself to us through His Word to transform us to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8:28), theology should not only be intellectual but also *transformational*, which includes our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Doing Theological Anthropology is to \_\_\_\_\_ on what God says about \_\_\_\_\_. It seeks to understand how God made humanity, how God judges' humanity, and how God restores humanity. Remember, theological reflection begins, remains, and ends with God, which is why we must consider God primarily even when we think about humanity.

The end goal is to better see the beauty of the revealed Christ so we may *love* Him more and *worship* Him more by the way we act ethically and the way we act within our families.

### Human Nature Created

*Genesis 1:26-28* – (26) “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.’ (27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (28) 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.’”

Observations from the Text:

1. God has \_\_\_\_\_ us.
2. God has an \_\_\_\_\_ and we are made in it.
3. God has made us \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. God has made us and commands us to produce \_\_\_\_\_.
5. God has made us to have \_\_\_\_\_ just like God has dominion.

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6. God \_\_\_\_\_ us.

What does this passage say about God? How does Theological Anthropology begin with God?

How does Theological Anthropology remain with God? Let's consider the following passages:

1. *John 15:7-8* – “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (8) By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.
2. *Colossians 1:15* – “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”
3. *Hebrews 1:3* – “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

How does Theological Anthropology end with God? Let's consider the following passages:

1. *Romans 8:29a* – “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...”
2. *1 Corinthians 15:49* – “Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.”
3. *2 Corinthians 3:18* – “And we will, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, we being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
4. *1 John 3:1-2* – “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. (2) Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has

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not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Doing Theological Anthropology ought to be transformational for our lives, because it shows us that our identity is established on God's original design in \_\_\_\_\_. However, due to the Fall in Genesis 3 our ability to faithfully display God's image was distorted. Therefore, we need to \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ by faith, who is the image of the \_\_\_\_\_ God (Col. 1:15) so that our humanity can be restored. When we will finally see God by sight, our Theological Anthropology will become complete as we \_\_\_\_\_ like him (1 John 1:2) when we see him face to face.

### **Theological Implications: Dignity and Worth**

Being created in the image of God is the \_\_\_\_\_ for human dignity and worth.

Genesis 9:6 – “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.”

James 3:9-10 – (9) “With it [the tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. (10) From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.”

Why should we treat every person with respect and value their life?

### **Theological Implications: Gender Roles**

Because God is the giver of life, designer, the giver of authority, He determines why He created \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ distinctly. This means God designed men to \_\_\_\_\_ a certain way and He designed women to \_\_\_\_\_ a certain way.

Do men and women have distinct roles or functions? If they do, then how to these distinct roles communicate to us about what it means to be made in God's image?

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Consider These Passages to Answer the Below Questions:

1. *Genesis 2:18* – “Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone.’”
2. *1 Corinthians 11:8-9* – (8) “For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. (9) Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.”
3. *Ephesians 5:22-28* – (22) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. (24) Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (25) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (26) that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (27) so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (28) In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.
4. *Titus 2:4-5* – Older Women should “train younger women to love their husbands and children, (5) to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their husbands.”
5. *1 Timothy 2:11-15* – “Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. (12) I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. (13) For Adam was formed first, then Eve; (14) and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. (15) Yet she will be saved through childbearing – if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

What are some observations we can make from these passages about gender roles in the household and a local church?

What are the theological reasons for the distinct gender roles in the household and the church?

God has \_\_\_\_\_ us to be male or female so that we may \_\_\_\_\_ as a male or female. Manhood and woman are \_\_\_\_\_ that God has determined as the giver of life and giver of authority to His image bearers so that we may have \_\_\_\_\_ over the earth and \_\_\_\_\_ life.

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**Preparation for Next Week:**

Read – <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/your-spouse-is-gods-creation> (Attached to this document.)

**Further Resources:**

Akin, Daniel L. *A Theology For The Church: Revised Edition*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014.

Köstenberger, Andreas J. and David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.