

BIG QUESTIONS

WHAT WE BELIEVE
AND WHY IT MATTERS

Who Are We, Really? [Doctrine of Humanity] Genesis 1:26-27

Big Idea: God created humanity in His image for relationship, reflection, and rule—but sin distorted that image. Through Christ, God is restoring us to our true identity and purpose.

I. We Are Created by God [Genesis 1:26, 27]

Why #1? For Relationship [Genesis 1:26]

Why #2? To Reflect His Glory [Genesis 1:27]

Why #3? To Rule [manage] wisely the creatures and resources of this earth [Psalm 8:3-8]

II. We Are Broken by Sin [Genesis 3:6-8]

[The Image Distorted]

Application: Confess how sin has distorted your understanding of identity and relationships.

III. We Are Restored in Christ [Colossians 3:10]

[The True Image of God - Colossians 1:15]

Application: Live out your restored identity—walk in holiness, humility, and hope as renewed image-bearers.

IV. We Are Destined for Glory [Romans 8:18]

[Humanity Fully Redeemed - Revelation 21:3-4]

Application: Live today in light of your future glory—let hope fuel obedience and worship.

[Genesis 1:26-27] 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.

[1 John 3:1a, 2a] See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. . . ² Beloved, we are God's children now

[Psalm 8:6-8] You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, ⁷ all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

[Genesis 3:6-8] So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

[Colossians 3:10] . . . put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

[Ephesians 2:10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

[2 Corinthians 4:16-17] So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, . . .

[Revelation 21:3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.

[Leviticus 26:11,12] He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

Study Questions and Prayer

- [1] Read Genesis 1:26-27. What does it mean to be created in the image of God, and how does this shape your understanding of your identity and purpose?
- [2] Read Genesis 3:6-8. How has sin distorted humanity's relationship with God and others? How can confessing this distortion help restore your understanding of identity and relationships?
- [3] Read Colossians 3:10 and Romans 8:18. How can living out your restored identity in Christ and focusing on your future glory impact your daily life, decisions, and worship?
- [4] Pray, asking God to help you embrace your true identity in Him, restore what sin has broken, and live in holiness, humility, and hope for Your glory.