

## Session 4: Day 6 - In the Image of God

*Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.'*

*So God created man in His own image;  
He created him in the image of God;  
He created them male and female.*

*God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth. - Genesis 1:26-28*

Day 6 was designed to be seen as the central focus of creation. Many literary elements were used by Moses to highlight its importance:

- Moses spent the longest amount of words and space explaining day 6.
- Breaking from the pattern given in the previous 5 days, Moses highlighted man as being made different from the rest of creation
- Genesis 1:27 breaks the narrative pattern and includes poetry, then returns to narrative in Genesis 1:28
- Moses used repetition of words and phrases to highlight day 6 - “created,” “to Our likeness/in His own image/in the image of God”
- Day 6 is the only day God determined his creation to be “very good” instead of “good”

“not only was everything created by Christ, it was also created for Christ. Thus, the directional purpose of the universe is that all things are created by God for purpose of bringing him glory.” - Liederbach and Bible

### **Subtle Contrast in Man**

- “Let there be a man...”?
  - “Let Us make man”
- Contrast shows the central importance of the narrative - the creation of the man and the woman
- “According to its own kind...”?
  - “according to the likeness of God”
- “Man’s likeness is not shared merely with all other human beings; rather, he shares a likeness with his own Creator!” - John Sailhamer
- The creation of man is specifically described as
  - creation of “male and female”
- Up to this point in the creation account, the author has not considered gender an important feature to stress

## Session 4: Day 6 - In the Image of God

- God intended to portray man as special
  - He is a creature marked off from the rest of God's works
- Man is like God
- He is a special creature made in the image and likeness of God

### Various Understandings of the Mysterious "Us"

1. Refers to the Trinity
2. Refers to God and His heavenly court of angels
3. An attempt to avoid the idea of an immediate resemblance of humans to God
4. Expresses the deliberation on God's part as He set out to create man

"To be in God's image means to be like God and to represent God. As God's image, man is the pinnacle of all creation, more like God than any other creature, and the only one appointed to rule over the rest of creation as God's representative." - Wayne Grudem

### "In Our image, according to Our likeness"

"The word for image, *tselem*, is derived from a root that means 'to carve' or 'to cut'... When it is applied to creation of man in Genesis 1, the word *tselem* indicates that man images God, that is, is a representation of God... The Hebrew word for likeness, *demuth*, comes from a root that means 'to be like.' One could therefore say that the word *demuth* in Genesis 1 indicates that the image is also a likeness, 'an image which is like us.' The two words together tell us that man is a representation of God who is like God in certain respects." - Anthony Hoekema

### Responsibilities of mankind

- Representatives on the earth
- Replicating God's image across the earth demonstrates all the places where he reigns and rules and brings Him the glory He deserves and desires
- Take care of His land (taking care of His kingdom in a way honoring Him)
- Help restore His people and land to how they were supposed to be

"We have a great hope and respect for all people regardless of their state. They, like us, are the culmination of God's infinitely wise and skillful creation. They have potential to return to the beauty of Jesus Christ... by turning away from their sin and turning to their Creator." - Wayne Grudem

"From the beginning, God's intention was that the whole of creation, not just human beings, but certainly led by them, would sing His praise in worship, and this unified chorus would bring God pleasure (Psalm 89:5; 96:9; Isaiah 43:20a; 66:23).