

Genesis 1:26-31

In God's Image

The crown of creation ...

I. In His Image

- A. Reflective
- B. Doxological
- C. Sacred

II. Given Dominion

- A. Derived
- B. Distinct
- B. Responsible

III. And Very Good

- A. Holy
- B. Happy
- C. Accountable

... designed for dignity.

Children, Listen ...

1. In Whose image did God make people?
2. What was Adam? What was Eve?
3. Were people made to be the same as animals?
4. What did God give creatures for their food?
5. Why were Adam and Eve happy?

Sanctity from the Start

When God made man and woman he made them sacred by design – the very fact that He made us in His image bears witness to this. The Westminster Larger Catechism summarizes it this way: *Q. 17. How did God create man?*
A. After God had made all other creatures, he created man male and female; formed the body of the man of the dust of the ground, and the woman of the rib of the man, endued them with living, reasonable, and immortal souls; made them after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness; having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it, and dominion over the creatures; yet subject to fall. What a magnificent creation and what a wonderful state to be in! Holy creature above all other beasts, designed to reflect the Creator, with bodies and souls meant to live forever, created for blessed relationships (including perfected complimentary genders), and called to rule the earth and fill it with progeny – all to His glory. It is so hard for us to fathom because we have fallen so far from that happy and holy estate – but human life is still sacred and surely designed for God's glory. Though we may have lost sight of this, God has not forgotten – and according to His great mercy He has provided the way for His fallen creatures to be happy and holy once again in spite of the ravages of sin. Through the Lord Jesus Christ and His reconciling work we can be restored to sweet fellowship with God and we can once again set out to do all things for His glory. And now, even as we still struggle with the corruption of sin, in Christ we have been restored. And while we may with all our heart, wish we could return to Eden, we can look forward to a more glorious paradise when all temptation and sin will be vanquished as we are restored to full human dignity and perfect communion with God our Creator.