

SERMON: The Image of God

September 30, 2018

SERIES: Genesis the Beginning of the Gospel

SPEAKER: Pastor Brady

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:4-17

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man[a] 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."

^{2:4} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵ When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— ⁷ then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸ And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat[d] of it you shall surely die."

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. The Imago Dei as our beginning.
- II. The Imago Dei as our destiny.

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. What comes to mind when you think of the word image? What about Image of God?
2. We said that the image and likeness of God means to represent him to the world and to reveal him to the world. How does Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:4-17 show mankind representing and revealing God? What are the implications of this for you individually? For the church?
3. Why is the image of God so important? We listed these reasons:
 - a. It gives us meaning, significance, and glory.
 - b. It reveals our dependence upon God's grace.
 - c. It means we have freedom.
 - d. It gives us the joy of impacting the world.
 - e. It means we can experience the presence of God.

Which of these stands out to you? Why? How does it change the way you see yourself or others?

4. How does Christ restore the image of God in us? Read and discuss these scriptures: John 1:1-4, 14; Philippians 2:7; Colossians 1:15; John 1:12; Romans 8:28-29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:49; 1 John 3:2.

5. How do you view your salvation? Your life? Is it more like A or B?

A. Avoiding Hell, avoiding sin, being good, making progress.

B. Being a king/queen and priest, child of God, revealing the new creation, receiving grace, sacrificial love.

How does the idea of the image of God being our eternal destiny change how you see your life and your salvation?

Pray: Celebrate the image of God in yourself and those in your group. Thank God for restoring his image through Jesus Christ. Ask God to use you to represent and reveal Christ to the world.