

October 13, 2024

A Fitting Image

Richard Wallace

Read **Genesis 1:26-31** (NIV):

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

1. "We live in an image obsessed world" how much do you think that is true? What examples do you see in life around you of image being everything?
2. What is the same and what is different about day six of creation compared to the previous five days?
3. What examples of generosity are in this passage? How often do you think of God as being generous? How can this passage help you think about that more?
4. The "image of God" was an idea in the ancient world. How does the idea in Genesis contrast with the ancient understanding? Why are these important differences?
5. How does the image of God give us value? Does it surprise you that God elevates you to such a high position and values you so much?
6. Vs 27 highlights that all are made in the image of God. MLK Jr reflected on this that "there are no gradations in the image of God" How are these words a challenge to you? How would our world be different if more people lived this out?

7. From vs 28 what is the purpose the image of God gives us? Are you comfortable with the idea of ruling and subduing? How does God rule and subdue? What are some examples of how we can image him in our daily life?
8. Richard encouraged us to use our imagination to consider how we could “rule” and “subdue” and “multiply” in such a way that it brings flourishing to our world and generously elevates others around us. Take some time to individually consider ways you can be living out this purpose in your life and share with the group some of your thoughts.
9. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 below. How does God continue to develop the idea of the image of God in the New Testament

¹⁸And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

10. How is the image of God a message of hope? How might you communicate this message of hope to a friend or neighbor?
11. What did you sense God saying to you through this passage and this message?