



Creation Ruled – Humanity’s Dignity and Destiny

3rd in the “Creation Matters”

Genesis 1:26-31, p. 1

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Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we explore the dignity and destiny of created persons, and how such truths apply to our life

The Text: Genesis 1:26-31

1) Every human was created with a dignity – a special, undiminished connection to the Creator.

a) Humanity is the high point of creation – with the incarnation of Jesus as the climax.

b) Humanity was created “in the image of God” – and that image is Jesus Christ.

c) Because they have been created by God, every person is a priestly-king – and Jesus is the ultimate Priest-King.

2) Every human was created with a destiny – an intended trajectory to reflect the glory of God in Christ.

a) Since Adam and Eve were created in the image of God, and that image is Christ, then they had an unfinished destiny rooted in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

b) Human destiny calls for the gospel!

Col 3: 9-10: “⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”

c) Every human is designed to be the Royal Priesthood who represents God and expresses an abundant life in Christ.

1 Peter 2:9-10: “...you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

Rev 5:9-10: “...by [Jesus’] blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

3) Some applications and reflections on the dignity and destiny of humanity.

a) Human dignity: the value of every person is not based on performance, abilities, or capacities, but on God.

b) Human destiny: Every human life has its beginning and end in Jesus Christ.

c) The church's mission is to be the Royal Priesthood, representing God to the world and offering Christ as the source of true human flourishing.

d) Genesis 1-2 introduces the full message of Scripture, which points everything to Christ and ends with the New Creation (21-22).

Response

The church, as the royal priesthood of God, should act in ways befitting human dignity and destiny.

Sunday Text Questions for Genesis 1:26-31

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- 1) Starter Question: What do you think Christianity teaches about the value of every person?
- 2) Read the texts aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What is the significance and meaning of the plural "Let us" in v. 26?
- 4) What does it mean for humans to be made "in the image of God" (v. 26)?
- 5) Why might it be significant that v. 27 says both male and female are made in the image of God?
- 6) V. 28 has long been noted for giving the "creation mandate." What is v. 28 say that God's expects from humanity?
- 7) How does this text speak about the dignity of every person?
- 8) How would you apply this text to issues like racism or the treatment of Jews by Nazi Germany?
- 9) How does this text point to the destiny of every person that is fulfilled in Christ alone, as explained in the rest of Scripture?
- 10) How is Jesus Christ necessary for every kind of human flourishing?

Further study this week: 1 Corinthians 15:35-49 on the resurrection body (Mon); Colossians 3:1-17 on the new self (Tues); Ephesians 2:11-22 on the new humanity (Wed); 1 Peter 2:1-2 on the royal priesthood (Thurs); Revelation 5 on a kingdom and priests to God (Fri).