

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

What Does Genesis 1-2 Tell Me About Me*?

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man 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." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

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

Genesis 1:26-31

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 of it you shall surely die."

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

²³ Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:15-25

Basic *Biblical* Anthropology:

What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? (Psalm 8:4)

I am _____ among all that God has created.

I am _____ and _____ other created beings.

I am not made according to my "_____". I am a new "_____".

What is most important about me is that I am made after _____ kind!

I am made in _____.

I am not _____...

I am not _____ ...

I am a _____ being.

I am _____ of my Creator. (Col. 3:10, Rom. 1:19)

I am able to _____ to my Creator. (John 17:3)

I am able to _____ my Creator. (Eph. 4:24)

I will be _____ my Creator. (1 John 3:2)

I am given _____ as God's representative.

I have _____.

I have _____.

I have _____.

More "Applied Biblical Anthropology":

I am _____.

"To confess that God is Creator is to confess that we are not cosmic accidents, devoid of ultimate value. We came from somewhere significant and we are headed toward a destination of importance." R.C. Sproul

I have _____ (Gen. 1:28ff)

I am _____ (Ex. 31:1-6, 35:31-32)

I am _____ (Gen. 2:19-20, Psa. 32:8-9)

I am _____ (Gen. 2:9)

I am _____ (Gen 2:7)

I am _____ (Gen. 2:16-17)

I am _____ (Gen. 2:18, 24)

I am _____ (Gen. 1:27-28, 2:24-25)

After Genesis 3* ...

I am SINFUL. (Isa. 43:7, 1 Cor 15:21-22, Romans 5:12ff)

All other attributes still exist, but now all are corrupted by my _____.

Can the **Imago Dei** be restored?

If so, how?

The answer to this greatest of all questions is the main subject of the entire Bible, the good news of Jesus Christ, God's Son. There is hope for us in our sin because of the grace of God which fulfills his original plan for creation. Jesus came not only to restore our original righteousness which was lost through sin but to grant us his own. He fulfilled the law of God on our behalf and then offered his own life as a sacrifice to God's justice for the forgiveness of our sins. Romans 3:23-25 explains: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith."

Christ came not only to remedy our standing with God but also to restore God's image within us through sanctification. Thus, the language of Genesis 1:27 is echoed in the New Testament teaching that by faith in Jesus we are being "renewed in the spirit of [our] minds ... to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:23-24). By the grace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit whom he sends, we are born again to a God-honoring life, restored in the image of righteousness and holiness.

- Richard Phillips

Next Week: What Genesis 3 Tells Me About Me, My Sin, and the Reality of Evil