



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Life Group Notes – 8th May 2022

Origins: Genesis 1:24-2:3 Made in the image of God

Please visit the LCC website to listen to the talk or read the transcript if available.

Genesis 1:24-2:3 And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 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.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Comment

The phrase ‘made in the image of God’ is crucial for our self-understanding and forms the basis of the Judeo-Christian value of human dignity. It set humans apart from the animal world, fits them for the rulership or dominion over the earth and endowed them with the spiritual capacity to commune with their maker. It refers to the immaterial part of humanity, a likeness mentally, morally and socially.

Mentally, humanity was created to reason, to choose, reflecting God’s creative intellect and freedom. Morally, humanity was created righteous and innocent, reflecting God’s holiness. God saw all he had made (humanity included) and called it VERY GOOD. Our conscience (sometimes called our moral compass) is a vestige of that original state. Whenever someone writes a law, recoils from evil, praises good behaviour, or even feels guilty, they are confirming the fact that we are made in God’s image. Socially, humanity was created for fellowship and friendship, reflecting God’s triune or three-part camaraderie, unity and intimacy as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Ecclesiastes 3.11 says God has ‘set eternity in the hearts of men’, which is like a homing impulse, which draws humanity to seek after God and ask questions of meaning and purpose. But part of being made in God’s image is free choice. God didn’t want robots. Man chose to rebel against his creator, (more about this next week). So the image of God was marred, defaced, disfigured and distorted. And, as it says in Romans 5.12, that damaged likeness was passed to all his descendants. Not destroyed though. James 3.9 says we still all bear the image of God, but scarred by rebellion. Mentally, morally, socially and physically we show the effects of that rebellion. So though man is still in the image of God, in every aspect of life some parts of that image has been distorted or lost. But the good news is that when God redeems an individual through Jesus, He begins to restore the original image of God, commissioned to bless and lead others towards His Kingdom. 2 Cor 5.17 says we are made new creations in the likeness of God, so our response is to allow ourselves to be ‘polished up’ to increasingly reflect God’s glory.

Questions

1. Why is it so important to consider that every human being is made in the image of God?
2. In what ways could v26–30 suggest that equality, veganism and creation care are original ideals?
3. Why is recognizing we are made in God’s image essential for good leadership and stewardship?
4. How does our conscience remind us we are created in God’s image?
5. What does this passage teach us about God and ourselves?