

## MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

### #2 | Our True Identity — Genesis 1:26

#### Overview:

In the Core 52 book, the title of the chapter that covers today's verse is "Our True Identity." It seems that most of us would most often refer to our spiritual identity as "Our identity in Christ." However, the discussion in the book caused me to have a different and broader perspective related to this verse.

As you know, Genesis 1:26 reads Then God said "Let us make man in our image," in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea, and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all of the earth.." So today, we will try to look more deeply, and perhaps think in some different ways, as to what it means to be created in God's image, and what that may imply in regard to how God wants us to be living our lives.

#### Why I Picked This Verse:

There are two main reasons that this verse resonated with me and caused me to select it. The first is the phrasing "Let **Us** make man in **Our** own image." This statement is clearly referring to the Trinity, the triune nature of God. That is the God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Which might be described as three basic components that make up God.

For many years I had difficulty in envisioning how one God could actually be these three different things. It was exceptionally helpful to my faith when I first heard the analogy that compares the Trinity to the Sun. As we know, the **source** of what we see as the sun is a core of incomprehensible energy. Yet what we see of the Sun is the light that it emits. And as we know the Sun also gives off heat and energy that is what sustains life. So, seeing the Sun as one "thing" that really has three distinct components, has been hugely helpful to me in being able to identify with the God as the Trinity:

- God the Father (the source)
- Jesus the Son (the part of God that we see)
- Holy Spirit (the impartation of God's energy within us)

The second thing that I connected with in this verse was the perspective and emphasis that was shared by the author as to how we should view ourselves, and our relationship with God. What does God desire of us as we are to fully reflect His nature? The discussion in the chapter takes the position that in giving us the responsibility to "Rule" over His creation God's desire is for us to both care for Creation, but to also continue His creative work. The author emphasizes that these purposes are primarily lived out **in community and in relationship with others.**

I was particularly struck by the author's emphasis on Creativity as a part of man's basic nature, and that God's desire has always been for mankind to use our inherent creativity to constantly work for the betterment of His creation. The author notes that things such as art, music, and technical advancement are all illustrations of how man is unique from the rest of God's living creation, and that we have the responsibility to use our creativity to enhance the creation that God entrusted to us. Again, note that this Creativity is lived out in community, for those beyond ourselves.

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbipxLDtY8c>

### **Segment Questions:**

1. Have you ever struggled with the concept of the Trinity, and how have you described this concept to others? Thinking about “man” (about us), how do we reflect all three characteristics of the Trinity?
  
2. In this verse God says “let them rule.” What strikes you about the implications of ruling over creation?
  
3. The author emphasized the point that man’s role in creation is one that is primarily lived out in community. Some of the things that are often emphasized as being extremely important if we are serious about our faith are:
  - a. Repenting, and accepting Christ as our Personal Savior
  - b. Partaking in communion
  - c. Spending significant time in reading or studying the bible.
  - d. Spending time alone in prayer.

What is your view of the importance of those things as a reflection of what God desires in making us in His own image?

### **Action Questions:**

- What aspects of this discussion are most impactful to you personally?
- Does this discussion cause you view your “Identity”, from God’s perspective, any differently than you have viewed it in the past?

### **Closing Personal Prayer:**