

The Crown of Creation

Genesis 1:26–31

An Expositional Sermon by Dr. Bradley Rushing

Big Idea

As God's image-bearers, we are called to represent Him in His world.

I. In the Creation of Humanity, God Shares His Image With Us (vv. 26–27)

- The narrative slows down—humanity is made with intentionality and divine deliberation.
- “Let us make man...” hints at God’s Trinitarian life and His heavenly court, yet God alone creates.
- Being made in God’s image means:
 - We represent Him in His world.
 - We reflect His character.
 - We bear unique dignity and worth.
- “Male and female He created them”—both fully reflect the image of God.
- Humanity is crowned with “glory and honor” (Psalm 8).
- Your worth doesn’t start with what you do—it starts with who made you.

II. In His Image, God Calls Us to Wise Dominion Over His World (vv. 26, 28–30)

- Image is not just status, it’s a **calling**: “Let them have dominion...”
- Dominion = wise, responsible, God-honoring stewardship, not exploitation.
- God blesses before He commands; dominion flows out of God’s favor.
- Humans are royal priests: called to “work and keep” God’s world (Gen. 2:15).
- God provides everything needed for this calling (vv. 29–30).
- Applications:

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- Creation care matters. We don’t worship the world or abuse it. We steward it.
- Work matters. All honest work becomes worship when done in a way that reflects God.

III. Over His Image-Bearers, God Speaks Blessing and Calls It “Very Good” (vv. 28, 31)

- Before humanity lifts a finger, God blesses them.
- For the first time in the chapter, creation is not just “good”... but “very good.”
- Humanity completes God’s creative work. His world is now functioning as He designed.
- The physical world, our bodies, work, relationships—all were originally good.
- Though sin distorts these gifts, God’s plan is restoration, not abandonment.
- In Christ, the image is being renewed (Col. 3:10), and creation itself longs for renewal (Rom. 8:19–21).

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