



June 3-4, 2023

Foundations For Flourishing - Week 3 “The Value Of Human Life”

GATHER

- In today’s text we look at how and why God created people. Is there something you’ve ever created that you’re particularly proud of? It could be something you built, cooked, baked, designed, created, produced, etc. (Alternatively, you could also share something you *wish* you could make, or make better than you’re currently able to.)
- If you were at a weekend service, share your takeaways from the message you heard. What was something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?

GROW

This weekend’s message was launched out of Genesis 1:27 and interacted with some other key texts (see below). Talk through the topic more thoroughly as a group using the outline below.

Feel free to select a suggested question or two in each section to guide your conversation.

- **Understand Their Story**

Go to the book of Genesis 1:27 and discuss the idea of how God created humanity in “the image of God”.

- In what ways do you feel you understand what “the image of God” means for us? Look up Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15-18, and 9:1-7 to examine what our design indicates about...
 - Our value? (see especially 9:1-7)
Don’t kill. Life is sacred. Why? Because humans bear “God’s image” - see Gen. 9:6. God treasures human life!
 - Discuss the implications of this. What things make us forget people’s value?
 - Our relational needs? (see especially 2:15-18)
We’re created for community, and to not live alone (2:18).
 - Discuss the implications of this. In what way can the church be different from the rest of the world when it comes to this?
 - Our purpose? (see especially 1:26-28, Genesis 2:4-8, 15-18)
We’re meant to represent God as rulers (1:26) and caretakers (2:5,15) over the rest of creation. God intended for humanity to live in his blessing (1:28) and be fruitful and multiply (1:28, 9:7).
 - Discuss the implications of this. What does this tell us about humanity in comparison to the rest of creation?

- **Connect To His Story**

- Because we are made the image of God, humans are beings who are 1) Moral; 2) Volitional; 3) Relational. These dimensions were distorted because of human rebellion, which has consequences.
 - First, read Colossians 1:21.
 - What contrast is there between how this verse describes humanity and what we read in Genesis 1 and 2? What is problematic about people after the Fall? **Humanity became: 1) alienated; 2) hostile in mind; and 3) evil in deed. This distorted the good elements of our moral, volitional, and relational design.**
 - How does being “alienated from God, hostile in mind, evil in deed” impact morality today? What are you seeing?
 - How does being “alienated from God, hostile in mind, evil in deed” impact volition (human will) today? Where is it challenging for people to submit to God’s will?
 - How does being “alienated from God, hostile in mind, evil in deed” impact relationships today? What things are most out of sync with God’s design that undermine good relationships with him and other people?
 - Next, Read Colossians 1:15-22.
 - List what we learn about the character or activity of God in this text, and how each attribute encourages or challenges you?
 - **Jesus reflects the image of God perfectly (1:15)**
 - **All things were made “through him” and “for him” (1:16) - this is encouraging because God is ultimately in control of all things!**
 - **All things are held together by him (1:17) - this is encouraging because we might sometimes feel like everything is falling apart.**
 - **He is the “head of the body, the church” (1:18) - this is encouraging because we’re a part of something that is God’s idea, under God’s leadership, following God’s mission, regardless of how imperfect our experiences may be.**
 - **God was “pleased” to have his fullness dwell in Jesus in order to bring reconciliation and peace (1:20) - this is encouraging because there’s hope for every person, and it’s not built on our efforts, but on his! And it’s a hope he was glad to bring.**
 - **We’re presented holy, without blemish, and free from accusation before God (1:22) - this is encouraging because we can live without shame and condemnation hanging over us due to our sin.**

GO

- **Apply To Our Story**

Understanding the “imago Dei” (image of God) helps us think rightly in the tough moral questions that impact human flourishing.

Feel free to select a section or two to use in your group time.

- Non-Christians (and some nominal Christians!) might argue that the Bible isn’t a foundation for “flourishing”, but a source of “harm”. Why might this be? Do you know people who feel this way? How are you navigating those conversations/relationships?
- What conversations do you feel ill-equipped for when it comes to “the value of human life”?
 - Beginning of Life conversations? (eg. contraception, ethics around fertility, abortion)
 - End of Life conversations? (eg. MAID, Euthanasia)

- If you, or people in your group are asking questions about these issues, feel free to connect with our care department (care@northview.org) to talk, or to receive resource recommendations. Another great resource is ApologeticsCanada.com. You can check out some of their resources here:
 - <https://apologeticscanada.com/resources/#recommendations>
 - <https://apologeticscanada.com/podcasts/>
 - <https://apologeticscanada.com/2023/03/02/staring-maid-in-the-face-a-personal-story-of-end-of-life-care/>

Pray!

- In light of your conversation or things happening in the lives represented in your group, how might the Holy Spirit be prompting you to pray?
- All of our activity is unto God's glory and our mission is to help every person become a "deeply rooted follower of Jesus". *We put this in every Community Group guide because we believe it's important: Who are those who don't currently follow Jesus - or are wrestling with the subjects we've looked at this week - that you could pray for by name?*