



It's easy to rush through life without pausing to understand our meaning and purpose. But to have a life worth living requires answering the Big Questions: Who are we? Why are we here? Where are we going?

The universe, life, order, meaning, gender, marriage, languages... everything we experience today started somewhere. In this series, we'll examine the beginning of human history and the Bible's answers to some of life's biggest questions.

Week Three: Constructed or Accepted.

Text: Genesis 1:26-28

Young people in our world are familiar with the message that they can “be whatever they want to be.” In other words, the possibilities are endless and it’s their job to decide who they are and what their purpose is, and then to act in order to realize the identity and purpose they have chosen. As a result, Millennials live with a crushing weight of pressure to succeed and a sense of not being good enough. The Genesis account gives a very different perspective. This week we examine God’s creation of humanity and discover His answers to the questions of our Identity and Purpose: we are created in His image so that we can fill the earth with God-worshippers and act as stewards caring for creation. We have a choice. Will we construct our own identity and purpose, striving to create ourselves? Or will we accept God’s plan, and be who He created us to be?

Discussion Questions: These three larger questions will drive our discussion:

1. What did the Holy Spirit say to you through Sunday’s sermon and the associated passage?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can others in the group help you and pray for you so you can do what God told you to do?

What did the Holy Spirit say to you through the sermon?

- Would you agree or disagree with the statement, “People are being encouraged to create their own identity and use their freedom to be and do what they desire?” Try to give specific examples to support your view.
- Read Genesis 1:3-25 and note the general pattern of how God operated in the first five and a half days of creation. Now compare this to verses 26-28. What differences do you notice? What do you think God is communicating to us about the uniqueness of humans from the rest of His creation?

What are you going to do about it?

- What does it mean to be made in the image of God? How does that image relate to our mandate given in verse 28?
- Try to explain in your own words what Genesis is telling us about our identity and our purpose. How is that different from the messages we receive from our culture?

How can others in this group help you or pray for you?

- Genesis 1:26-28 is God’s affirmation that we are made in the image of God and mandated to represent Him in this world. Based on this, what should our attitude be toward racism, sexism, inequality, abortion, euthanasia, and other issues that directly involve the value and dignity of people?
- What would it look like for us to put those God-like attitudes into action?

Group Application:

- On Sunday we had a “Find Your Small Group” focus. We had a lot of people visiting us in the Welcome Center seeking to get into community. We always want to be in a position to “Welcome New People,” so if someone contacts you and wants to visit your group, be sure to welcome them in with open arms!

Memory Verse:

“So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.”

Genesis 1:27