



A Cultural Mandate
Genesis 1:26-31
January 19, 2020

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...
- **Genesis 1:28**

I. IMAGO DEI

- The sixth day represents the culmination (and part of the goal) of creation. The earth, and even the cosmos, were created for human habitation (vs. 31; Isa. 45:18).
- “Let us make man” has created no small amount of debate over the years (Gen. 1:1; 6:2; Ps. 89:6-8; Jer. 23:18).
- Part of our image-bearing is born out in our ruling over all God has created (vs. 26; Psalm 8).
- In God’s world, all humankind are image-bearers (royalty), not just kings and queens (Psalm 8, 82:6; John 10:34; Gal. 3:28).
- Humans, unlike anything else in creation, have a spiritual life, ethical and moral sensitivities related to conscience, and the capacity to represent their Creator.
- Sexuality is not an accident of nature, nor a mere biological phenomenon. It is purposeful. It is a gift of God (vs. 27; Matt. 19:3-6).

II. THE CULTURAL MANDATE

- All humans are given a task — subdue the earth and steward it as God’s vice-regents, and develop its latent potential (vss. 28-31).
- God’s people, specifically, are to extend the boundaries of Eden broadly, and to extend the kingdom of God specifically for the glory of God (Gen. 9:1; Matt. 28:18-20).
- God creates procreators. Sexual identity and function are not part of God’s Person, but they are part of his will for his image-bearers.
- God gave two assignments to the male *’adam* and the female *’adam* — procreation and dominion. Only image-bearers can produce a living soul.
- God preserves what he creates (vs. 29; 2 Peter 1:3-4).

KNOW: God has given us all we need to survive and flourish. We are called to push the boundaries of his kingdom outward, and to minister in his name and for his glory.

DO: Do your part in extending the borders of Eden.

Suggested Reading:

God Dwells Among Us: Expanding Eden to the Ends of the World by G.K. Beale and Mitchell Kim (LifePoint Library #231.765 BEA)

Controversy of the Ages: Why Christians Should Not Divide Over the Age of the Earth by Theodore Cabal (LifePoint Library #231.765 CAB)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 1:26-31

1. What expectations does God have for mankind?
2. What does it mean to be created in God’s image?
3. What is God’s blessing to mankind?
4. What does God give to mankind (and to everything with the breath of life? Why?
5. How are you living out God’s blessings?
6. Knowing these things, what does it mean to you personally?