

WHO DOES GOD SAY I AM?

Part 2 of WHO AM I? Genesis 1:26-31.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. September 25, 2022.

GROWING UP SCOTTISH

I grew up in Scotland.

Everyone wrestles with labels.

We may not be who we think we are ... or who people say we are.

GOD'S WISDOM IN GENESIS

Moses wrote Genesis to counter the Egyptian worldview.

Genesis 1:26-31 (ESV) Then God said, "Let us make man (humanity) in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

FINDING OUR IDENTITY IN GENESIS

1. I am created by God.

Verse 26: Then God said, "Let us make man (humanity) ...

- This is the foundation for the worth and value of all people.
- Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights."
- There are no second class humans.

James 2:1 (NLT) My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?

2. I am created to represent God.

Verses 27 So God created man (humanity) in his own image ...

- Image means representative.
- Whom we represent is the basis for the dignity of all people.

Psalm 8:3-6 (NLT) When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place—4 what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? 5 Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. 6 You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority—

- We all have royal status: crowned, charge, authority.

WHO GOD SAYS I AM

I am not:

- I am not my feelings, ethnicity, family tree, sex/gender, work, politics, etc.
- I am not who you say I am.
- I am not who I say I am.

I am who God says I am:

ONE MORE INSIGHT FROM GENESIS 1

3. God made us male/female on purpose for a purpose.

Verses 27-28: ... male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion

- God made us on purpose for a purpose.
- Our anatomy and sexuality are not up to us. .

It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance, and our destiny. Every other path leads to a dead end (Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?* (pp. 24-25). Zondervan.).

Need help sorting things out? Please speak to me or a trusted friend.

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Start Talking. Get the conversation going.

- Have you ever been labeled by others (positive or negative)? How did that affect you then and how does it still affect you today?

Start Thinking. Review Sunday's teaching.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching challenged or changed your thinking about identity?
- Genesis 1-3 was written to counter the Egyptian worldview and to prepare Israel to live in pagan Canaan. How does it help us navigate American life today?

Start Sharing. Apply Sunday's teaching.

- Have you ever presented a version of yourself to others that is different than how you feel about yourself? E.g. being super-confident to hide insecurity?
- How have you tended to identify people? Was it based on their looks, work, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or something else?
- Do you think it helps the church's mission when preachers or congregations are known more for their politics than their faith in Jesus and love for people?

Start Praying. Be bold.

Father, thank you for creating us in your image and giving us value, dignity, and purpose. Help us to silence the inner voice that tries to label us. Help us to replace the labels others try to give us with your truth about our identity. Give us grace to receive your Word so we can live with clarity and fulfill your purpose for our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen!

Keep Reading. In preparation for next Sunday.

- Read chapters 2-3 of Victory Over the Darkness.