

## **CREATED IN HIS IMAGE**

1. Text: Genesis 1:26-31
2. The creative process ended with the crowning jewel: mankind.
3. Man was the central object of God's creative purpose and still is. All of existence will eventually perish (II Peter 3:10), except mankind.
4. Why was the human race created? Four specific points are made in Genesis.

### **I. To Bear The Creator's Image**

1. Genesis 1:26 Let us make man in our image, our likeness (parallel expressions) used for emphasis, parallel, synonymous terms.
2. "Our" image? Veiled reference to the trinity. See also John 1:1 and Genesis 1:2.
3. Not physical. John 4:24 God is Spirit. James 2:26 The body without the spirit is dead. Luke 24:39 A spirit does not have flesh and bones.
4. Our spiritual nature, we are unique spiritual beings.
5. We share with animals and with God.

### **II. To Propagate Life**

1. Genesis 1:27-28 "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth."
2. Woman was not tacked onto creation as an addendum to God's original plan. Her separate later creation merely stresses how special and needed she was.
3. The only thing God pronounced as "not good" was man alone. (2:18) Eve's created delighted Adam (2:23)
4. She was Adam's helper (2:18,20) This is not about "domestic help" but in fulfilling this purpose. Psalm 127:3 "Children are a heritage from the Lord."
5. Each human being is precious in the sight of God our creator.

### **III. To Enjoy God's Blessing**

1. Genesis 1:28 "Then God blessed them," not a mere ceremonial consecration, but conferring well-being, happiness on them.
2. Still wants this for us. I Timothy 6:17 God "gives us richly all things to enjoy."
3. The garden paradise was given for "the good life." Vast array of fruits and vegetables created to be enjoyed (1:29)
4. God wanted man to enjoy this world in the original creation.

### **IV. To Rule Creation**

1. Genesis 1:26,28. Mankind was to have dominion over all other creatures. Meant to be sovereign of the planet.
2. God delegated to man the naming of the creatures. (2:19) Adam's first duty as ruler of the world.
3. Later because of sin, Satan is termed "the ruler of this world." (John 16:11)
4. Even man after sin entered the world has managed to take dominion over creation to an amazing degree.

Conclusion: God's purposes for mankind were wonderful, but there was a problem.

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings  
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