

**Session One: Creation of Humanity in the Image of God**

- I. Creator-Creature Relationship Manifest in the Creation of Man and Woman
  - A. God – eternity, aseity, independence, owner, ruler (Ps 50; Isa 40; Acts 17:24-25)
    - 1. Creation displays the aseity (self-existence), self-sufficiency, independence of God
    - 2. Creation displays God’s rightful ownership of and Rulership over all he has made
    - 3. Therefore, God does not need the creation he has made, in whole or in part. Creation displays his glory but does not/cannot contribute to his infinite worth
  - B. Humans – temporal, contingent, dependent, owned, ruled (Acts 17:25; 1 Cor 10:31)
    - 1. Humans, in contrast, are dependent upon God for all that they are and have
    - 2. Humans, likewise, are under the rightful Lordship and Rulership of God
    - 3. Therefore, humans have only one rightful stance before God – humility, dependence, gratitude, obedience, loyalty. To express otherwise is treason!
    - 4. Humans were not created to fill some emptiness in God but to be filled up by God!
- II. Man and woman created as the first human pair and in the image of God
  - A. First human pair – the Bible’s insistence upon the historical Adam and Eve
    - 1. The Genesis account presents the creation of Adam and Eve as historical
    - 2. Both Jesus and Paul understand Gen 2-3 as historical. See esp. 1 Tm 2 and 1 Cor 11
    - 3. The redemptive-historical storyline of Scripture depends on this historicity

B. Image of God – in “being” and “doing,” reflecting and representing God (Gen 1:26-28)

1. The pinnacle of God’s creative work is seen in the creation of man as male and female
2. Image of God has to do both with who God made us to be and what he called us to do
3. Christ, the image of God paradigmatically shows what image of God truly is
4. True human flourishing is expressed in life that fulfills God’s created purpose

III. Man and woman created equal in essence and distinct in roles

A. Equal in essence – both fully human, fully image of God, equal worth and dignity

1. Gen 1 makes clear – both male and female are created by God in his image
2. So, equal dignity, worth, value, and honor attaches to man and woman
3. Christian men in particular need to see the nobility of women, wives in particular

B. Distinct in roles – male headship established in creation for marriage and church

1. Following the pattern of the Trinity, God creates male and female equal in essence but distinct in roles
2. That distinction includes male authority in realms of believing community and home
3. Marriage: union of a man and a woman, for life, reflecting Christ and the church.
4. Gender: only two biological sexes and therefore only two genders. Our self-identity is given by God, not constructed by us.