

Sermon Discussion – 7 January 2024

Read Genesis 1:26-28; 3:1-7

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

How do you typically answer the question, "I am _____?" What aspects of your life do you often use to define yourself?

In what ways do you see your identity formed by external factors such as relationships, achievements, or possessions?

Observation *Discovering the context*

The words "image" and "likeness" found in Genesis 1:26-27 are essentially synonymous terms. Both indicate personality, moral, and spiritual qualities that God and man share. These distinguish humans from the animals, which have no God-consciousness even though they have conscious. Some interpretations suggest a Trinitarian aspect in "*Let us make man in our image.*"

- How might a Trinitarian understanding enhance our comprehension of these verses?
- How does the involvement of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in creation influence our understanding of human significance?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. According to v. 27-28, how does God view our identity? What does it mean to be made in God's image and likeness? How does reflecting God's attributes in our lives contribute to our true identity?
2. Discuss the idea that we are blessed to bless others. How does this perspective on blessings challenge common cultural views on success and achievement? Share examples from your life where you've experienced the joy of blessing others.
3. Reflect on the concept of "identity theft". In what ways does Satan attempt to steal our identity (read Genesis 3:5)? Share any personal experiences where you felt your identity was compromised or distorted by external influences.
4. Which of the categories of idols (Items, Duties, Others, Longings, Sufferings) resonates with you the most? Can you identify areas in your life where you might be unintentionally placing your identity in these categories?

5. After considering all of this, how would you answer the question "Who do you think you are?"

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- What steps can you take to ensure that your identity is rooted in Christ rather than external circumstances or cultural expectations?
- Try memorising Genesis 1:27...
"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?