

Humans, Created for Relationship (Anthropology)

Focus 1: The Creation of Man

*When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there **was no man to work the ground**, and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—then **the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.** (Genesis 2:5-7 ESV, emphasis added)*

Detail 1

Detail 2

Then God said, “Let us make man 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.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:26-27 ESV)

Distinctions of God’s Creation of Man

- *God created man differently than how He created the rest of creation.* He spoke the rest of creation into existence (“Let there be...[vv. 3, 6, 14], but formed man from the dirt of the ground [“Let us make...[26]]).
- *God made man with a unique content in being.* Whereas the animals came from the land, humans were uniquely made in the image of God, after His likeness (more about this to come).
- *God gave man life differently than how he created him.* He formed man from the dust of the ground, but God Himself breathed life into man’s body.
- *God gave created man a unique consequence of his being created.* As God’s unique image-bearer, man was given exclusive dominion over the other created beings, and of the earth itself.

Focus #2: God’s Relationship with Man

...in the image of God, after His likeness. (see Ecclesiastes 7:29; Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:24).

Our best appreciation of what it means to be in the image of God is found in considering the person of Jesus, of whom the Scripture says:

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature... (Hebrews, 1:3 ESV)

Focus #3: It was Very Good

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." 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. 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. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. (Genesis 1:28-31, ESV)

Detail 1: God blessed them

Detail 2: God said to them...

Detail 3: God saw that it was very good

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:15-17 ESV)