

IN THE BEGINNING

Genesis 1:26—2:4a

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image...’.” Genesis 1:26

1. Read Genesis 1:26–28. What do man and woman have in common with the birds and livestock and other creatures God made in days five and six? (Review verses 20–25.) What do man and woman have in common with God that all other creatures do not?
2. In verses 26 and 28 how does God explain what being made in his image means? What role will humans play in God’s creation?
3. Looking at our world today, what kind of report card do we get as rulers over creation? Who has come to restore integrity and righteousness to the role of mankind as ruler over creation? (Hebrews 2:6–10)
4. In Genesis 1:26–27 notice the plural form of God’s speech: “Let us,” and “in our image.” Whom do you think God is speaking to or conferring with? What hint about God’s being do we glimpse here that will come to fuller expression in the New Testament? (See John 14:16–17 and 17:5.)
5. God is a Trinity, with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in a loving relationship from all eternity. This being so, what else can we say is fundamental to being made in his image?
6. You interact with many people during the day—bus driver, boss, co-worker, spouse, children. How does knowing they are all made in God’s image impact how you treat them? What about the people you struggle with? How does viewing them as made in God’s image make a difference in how you interact with them?

7. In verse 27 God affirms the same dignity and value of both men and women as being made in his image. What tasks are both men and women to do together? (verse 28)

8. Read Genesis 1:29—2:4a. Since God considers the world he made “very good” (verse 31), what should be our view of the created world? (1 Timothy 4:4)

9. The “rest” of God on the seventh day is the rest of completion, not exhaustion. Why does God rest? What work does Jesus speak of completing in John 4:34?

10. What additional work has God promised to complete? (Philippians 1:6) Explain what this means to you.