

NEW CITY CATECHISM — WEEK 2

Q: How and why did God create us?

A: God created us male and female in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory.

*"It is certain that man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself unless he has first looked upon God's face, and then descends from contemplating him to scrutinize himself."
- John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion*

1. We were created....

a.) By the TRIUNE God.

Genesis 1:26-27

b.) In God's image. (Imago Dei)

What does that mean?

i.) Likeness

Genesis 5:1-3

ii.) Reflection & Representation

2. Through the fall the image was distorted but not destroyed.

Genesis 9:6; James 3:9

3. Through Jesus man is being restored in the image of God.

a.) Jesus, the Son of God, uniquely bears God's image.

Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 2:5-9

b.) We are being renewed in his image.

2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29

Implications of the Imago Dei?

- Culture
- Common Grace
- Social Justice
- Sanctity of Life
- Ethics and Moral Obligation

"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all of our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption." - C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

4. God created us male and female.

Genesis 1:27, 2:18

5. God created us to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him.

Isaiah 43:5-7; Ephesians 1:3-14

"Yet man, this part of your creation, wishes to praise you. You arouse him to take joy in praising you, for you have made us for yourself and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

- Augustine, Confessions

"So God makes us in his image. We could argue about whether it is our rationality, or our morality, or our volition that makes us in his image. The point is, he makes humans in his image to image something, namely, himself. So our existence is about showing God's existence or, specifically, it's about showing God's glory. Which I think means God's manifold perfections—the radiance, the display, the streaming out of his many-colored, beautiful perfections. We want to think and live and act and speak in such a way that we draw attention to the manifold perfections of God. And I think the way we do that best is by being totally satisfied in those perfections ourselves. They mean more to us than money and more to us than fame and more to us than sex or anything else that might compete for our affections. And when people see us valuing God that much and his glory being that satisfying, they see that he is our treasure. Show me more! I think that's what it means to glorify

God by being in his image."

- John Piper