

THE IMAGE OF GOD IN MANKIND: DOMINION

GENESIS 1:26



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

“In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth” is the truth **underlying** everything we can know and understand about God, ourselves, and our world.

- ✗** “In the beginning, nothing formed the heavens and the earth,”
- ✗** “In the beginning, BANG!”
- ✗** “In the beginning, God formed the heavens and the earth over millions of years using an ape-to-mankind model of human development.”

While *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”* is the **truth underlying** everything about who we are, evolution’s **counter** doctrines are the **lies undermining** everything about who we are.

Naturalism redefines and replaces God’s wisdom with man’s wisdom.

The doctrines of philosophical naturalism and evolution are the **false** wisdom of man and they do not and cannot come alongside the biblical doctrines of creation to form some **“crevolution”** hybrid about our origins.

Blending two antithetical systems of belief creates a **lie**. You will always have to compromise the **truth** of the genuine system to accommodate the **wrong** of the false system.

**We can summarize our image-bearing from Genesis 1 as
four gifts from God which are unique to humankind.**

I. God's Gift of **Ruling** (Genesis 1: 26, 28)

Genesis 1: 26 emphasizes the **plural nature** of God:

*“Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness...”*

And it is emphasizing that we are made to uniquely reflect who God is:

*“Let Us make man **in Our image, according to Our likeness...**”*

It's a dual emphasis highlighting a single, vital, **defining** truth about mankind: **image-bearing**.

*“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, **so that** they will have dominion over...” (LSB)*

The LSB translators form it as a **purpose** clause. God made us in His image **for the purpose of** giving us dominion.

I. God's Gift of **Ruling** (Genesis 1: 26, 28)

Dominion (*radah*) = to rule over, dominate, tread down

I. God's Gift of **Ruling** (Genesis 1: 26, 28)

We did not make **ourselves** human.

We did not fight and struggle to survive and dominate our way into **self-made** human beings.

The evidence our world shows of struggle, destruction, and death is due to sin and God's judgment.


The terms *dominion* and *subdue* involve:

“...first, **intense study** of the earth (with all of its intricate processes and complex systems) and, then, **utilization** of this **knowledge** for the **benefit** of the earth’s inhabitants, both animal and human. Here is the primeval commission to man authorizing both science and technology as man’s basic enterprises relative to the earth. ‘Science’ is man’s disciplined **study** and **understanding** of the phenomena of his world. ‘Technology’ is the **implementation** of this **knowledge** in the effective ordering and development of the earth and its resources, for the **greater good** of **all** earth’s inhabitants (including such fields of human service as engineering, agriculture, medicine, and a host of other practical technologies). This twofold commission to **subdue** and have **dominion**, to conquer and rule, embraces all productive human activities. Science and technology, research and development, theory and application, study and practice, and so forth, are various ways of expressing these two concepts.” *(Dr. Henry Morris)*

I. God's Gift of **Ruling** (Genesis 1: 26, 28)

On the positive side of Christian action is God's mandate for us to be faithful stewards of God's world **as His image bearers**.

We don't exercise dominion out of pride or fear, but from hearts **desiring to reflect God's design and goodness** as we apply God's wisdom and grace to caretaking for His creation.

A person stands on a dark rock in the foreground, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The text "GRACE CHURCH" is prominently displayed in a large, white, serif font, with "WILLIAMSBURG" in a smaller, similar font below it. The background is a deep black sky with a dense band of stars and nebulae stretching across the frame.

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