

# What does it mean to be human?

Lesson for Sunday, November 23, 2025

## INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ ASK: What are the biggest issues of the day? Most likely you will hear things such as abortion, euthanasia, racism, gender identity, LGBTQ+, etc.
- The biggest category of issues in 2025 center on identify. We hear about gender identity, sexual identity, pronouns, ethnic identity, etc.
  - It's the oldest question of the ages: Who am I?
  - Stress the point that as Christians we must think Biblically. This means we start with what the Bible says. We don't get our ideas from the world, from social media, from our feelings...but from God's Word.
- ⇒ We cannot understand many of today's issues if we don't first understand who we are.

## BIBLE STUDY:

1. The **Image** of God (Genesis 1:26)
  - a. When we read Genesis 1, we quickly pick up on a pattern.
    - i. "And God said, "Let there be...and there was...it was good."
    - ii. This is a drum beat throughout the first chapter until we get to vs 26.
  - b. Suddenly, the language changes.
    - i. God doesn't say, "Let there be man," He says, "Let us make..."
    - ii. The difference in how God created man from the rest of creation indicates that man is distinct in **nature** from the rest of creation. Man isn't a cousin of the animals or primitive plant life.
    - iii. We call this difference between man and the rest of creation "the Image of God."
  - c. What does it mean to be created in God's image? Consider these four primary areas:
    - i. There is a **physical** likeness.
      1. From before the foundation of the world, God knew He would one day send His Son to earth as a man. This is quite an amazing thought. God could have sent His Son in any way He wanted, but Jesus came as a man.
      2. While we know God is a Spirit, the fact that He revealed Himself in the form of a man gives a special value to human beings.
    - ii. There is a **mental** likeness
      1. Humans are the smartest of all created species. We have reasoning skills, emotional skills, the will to make choices.
      2. When was the last time your dog was gazing at the sunset and appreciating God's design? It hasn't happened and it never will.
    - iii. There is a **moral** likeness
      1. Only humans have the capacity for knowing God. There has never been discovered an atheistic tribe in some jungle.
      2. Human beings have an innate sense that some things are right and some things are wrong. Animals do not have that.
    - iv. There is a **social** likeness.
      1. Before time began God existed within the relationship of the Trinity. God is relational.
      2. We are relational beings. As God declared in Genesis 2, "It is not good for man to be alone."
2. A House with Three Rooms (Genesis 2:7)
  - a. God is a Trinity (3-in-1) and He created mankind to be trinitarian, as well. You can remember this by thinking of a human as a house with three rooms.

- b. Room #1: Man has a **BODY**
    - i. In Genesis 2:7 we read how God formed man's physical body. The Bible word is "soma" (Gr) – used about 144 times in the Bible.
    - ii. With our bodies we have **world** awareness (think of the five senses).
  - c. Room #2: Man is a **SOUL**
    - i. Greek Bible word is "psyche" where we get the word psychology. With our psyche we are aware of **self**.
    - ii. The soul gives life and personality: imagination, conscience, self-awareness.
  - d. Room #3: Man is a **SPIRIT**
    - i. In Genesis 2:7, this is the word translated "breath." Greek word is "pneuma" which means air or breath.
    - ii. With the spirit we can know God – or we have **God**-awareness.
  - e. KEY: In the Christian view of what it means to be human, all three rooms make up the complete house. If/when one of these "rooms" is separated from the rest of the "house," we cease to be human. ILL: When we view a dead body, we often comment that they do not look like themselves. Why is that true? The body has been separated from the soul and spirit.
3. Applying to Self:
- a. In light of what we have learned, how would we answer the question: Who am I?
  - b. Look up the following verses to assemble a definition of our identity:
    - i. Genesis 1:27                    **We are a human being created in God's image.**
    - ii. Genesis 1:27                   **We have been created male or female.**
    - iii. Gen 3/Rom 3:10           **We are all broken** (sinners).
  - c. STOP: These three points are true of every human being. What are the implications?
    - i. Because of God's image, every life is valuable and important and should be treated with respect. God created us in God's image – what a thought!
    - ii. Because God created us male/female, and because God is perfect and makes no mistakes, I am not a male stuck in a female's body, etc. It also should be encouraging to know that I am exactly how God wants me to be.
    - iii. Because we are all sinners, we should be humble. We don't know everything, we are not perfect, and we should have compassion on others.
  - d. If you are a Christian, there is more to our identity:
    - i. 2 Corinthians 5:17       **We are a new creation!** We have hope!
    - ii. 2 Corinthians 5:20       We have purpose: **We are ambassadors for Christ.**
  - e. This is who the Bible says you are! Our responsibility is to embrace who we are in Christ and to live for Him.

#### CONCLUSION:

- ⇒ True fulfillment in life is to live according to God's plan and purpose for our lives.
- ⇒ In Matthew 22, the Pharisees are trying to capture Jesus saying something wrong. In verse 17, they ask Him, "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?"
- ⇒ Jesus asked them for a common coin. After showing it to them, He asked whose image was on the coin. The Pharisee's gave the obvious answer: Caesar.
- ⇒ Jesus replied, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."
- ⇒ Just like the coin bore the image of the Roman leader, our lives bear the image of our Maker. Our call is to render ourselves to God completely – body, soul and spirit.