

Genesis #2: In His Image

²⁶ *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.”* Genesis 1:26 (ESV)

Note: The word in Hebrew for God is the same here, in verse 26, as in verse 1. It is the word “*elohim*”. It is a plural noun. “*El*” is the singular form. It communicates the tri-une nature of God.

²⁷ *So God created man in his own image,...* Genesis 1:27 (ESV)

I am created in the image of the tri-une God.

Note: Theologians call this the doctrine of “*imago dei*”. This means, in Latin, “*the image of God*”.

²⁶ *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.”* Genesis 1:26 (ESV)

The Hebrew words for image (tselem) and likeness (demut) are basically synonyms. They refer to: Something similar, but not identical to, the thing it represents.

What is the image of God?

My place is under God and over the rest of creation as the representative image-bearer of God.

²⁶ 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.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ 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.”

Genesis 1:26-28 (ESV)

2 aspects of the cultural mandate:

- **Multiply a godly heritage.**

Note: The state of Texas is 268,581 square miles. One square mile = 5,280 x 5,280 square feet = 27,878,400 square feet.

So, 268,581 square miles = 7,487,608,550,400 square feet. For simplicity, say 7.5×10^{12} . That divided by 7×10^9 (7 billion people) is over 1,000 square feet per person.

- **Manage God’s creation.**

²⁸ 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.”

Genesis 1:28 (ESV)

³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 1:31 (ESV)

²⁹ 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. ³⁰ 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. Genesis 1:29-30 (ESV)