

Did God Really Say? Created in God's Image: Ground Zero for Sexuality & Gender (Genesis 1-3)

INTRODUCTION

For the next 6 Sundays, Lord willing, we are going to be working our way through a series called "Did God Really Say?" We are going to look at issues of marriage, parenting, and human sexuality.

Here's the road map for the next few **Sundays**:

- Created in God's Image: Ground Zero for Sexuality and Gender
- God's Design for Human Sexuality
- Nouns & Pronouns: Transgenderism & the Bible
- The Purpose of Marriage
- Homosexuality, Same-Sex Attraction, the Bible & the Hope of the Gospel
- The Purpose of Parenting

As you can see, we have some serious topics in the weeks to come. I covet your prayers. Let me urge you not to miss a Sunday unless you're traveling or sick. And the study will contain subjects that you may or may not want your child to hear. I'll leave that decision with you. Having said that, your kids are being exposed (disciplined, indoctrinated) by the culture around them. It's your responsibility to counter the godless influence that is around them.

What is a worldview? **As the word itself suggests, a worldview is an overall view of the world. A worldview is the sum total of our beliefs about the world.**

As followers of Christ, we must have a Christian worldview, especially when considering the sexual revolution around us. And this worldview must be rooted in God's word!

Please turn in your Bible to **Genesis 1**.

Here's today's main point: God _____ humans in His image as _____ and _____. When we _____ the God-given _____ and _____, we _____ the _____ for which we were _____.

- Ground Zero for Sexuality & Gender – Genesis 1-3

I. Genesis 1: _____

The emphasis in Genesis 1 is clearly on equality of value and equality of nature. The man and the woman are exalted in value and dignity because they are together the image bearers of Almighty God.

II. Genesis 2: Equal but _____

In this part of the creation narrative, the emphasis is clearly now on differentiation. The critical issue for us to take from this text is first and foremost, that differentiation between the sexes was God's idea. God wanted humanity to be male and female. **Differentiation is not the result of the fall.** It precedes the fall. It is the essential design of God.

The emphasis in **Genesis 1** is on the equality and exalted dignity of the man and the woman. **The emphasis in Genesis 2 is on the difference between the sexes and their corresponding roles and responsibilities while at the same time, continuing to stress their essential equality. Equal but different.**

III. Genesis 3: _____

Eve had seen that *“the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise”* (v 6). Her decision was a rational, reasonable calculation, supported by what her feelings were saying to her. **How could it be wrong when it seemed good, looked delightful, and seemed wise?** Especially when her husband agreed and shared the fruit with her. Isn't that our story, too? **We do not cast our decisions to reject what God says as the actions of rebels. We really just see ourselves as owners and masters of ourselves.** What could be so wrong? This is the drama of **Genesis 3**: the casting off of God's rule. They cast off the role of being God's royal ambassadors assigned to rule over creation in relationship with him, and instead struck out on their own. You can be like God in your own life, Satan told the first humans. You can have the authority. You know what's best. You can't trust God—but you can trust yourself. **And the humans said, yes.**

But the Bible's story isn't left in the past tense. It's in the present tense. What occurred in the garden has made its way down to you and me: *“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God ... no one does good ... there is no fear of God before their eyes.”* (Romans 3:10-11, 12, 18)

This is a beautiful world. But it is also a broken one. And it is filled with humans who are capable of great good and of great mistakes, who can reach great heights but who are fundamentally flawed. **Our hearts, our minds, and our bodies are beautiful things, and they are broken things.** They have been since Adam and Eve first decided they would be better rulers of this creation than its Creator. **We are broken actors living on a broken stage, and we do not stand on the stage for very long.**

Here's the **good news: God does not leave us where we are. God promises to send someone into where we are to lead us out to a better future.** Amen? God announces the promise of a serpent-slaying Savior. And what God announces...what God promises, He accomplishes. Jesus Christ is the serpent-slaying Savior of **Genesis 3:15.**

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? Let me leave you with some truths to ponder (consider). (The following material is taken and adapted from Dr. Derek Allen's Distinctions Series)

1. There is a fundamental and necessary _____ between God, the _____, and everything and everyone in _____.

**“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
Genesis 1:1**

**God brought order from disorder by _____,
_____, and _____.**

“The earth was without form and void.” Genesis 1:2

Creating and Filling

Creating Days

Day 1: God created light

Day 2: God created the sky & seas

Day 3: God created the land

Filling Days

Day 4: God created the sun, moon, and stars

Day 5: God filled the sky and seas with life

Day 6: God filled the land with life

The Completion of Creation

Order of Humanity's Creation

God created man

God created woman

God created marriage

Special Feature

First creature God personally breathed life into

First creature made out of something living

Only relationship of perfect intimacy

2. God's good creation, including the distinctions He established, has been _____ since sin entered the world.

3. An attack on God's created distinctions is an attack on the necessary distinction between God, the Creator, and His creation, which is ultimately an attack against _____.

4. Humanity was _____ and _____ to _____ and _____ the created world with image bearers of God.

5. A _____ based on Genesis 1-3 offers the best explanation for the existence of _____ and _____.

6. Homosexuality _____ the distinct _____ of men and women in reproducing image bearers of God

7. Transgenderism _____ the distinct _____ of men and women as image bearers of God.

Truths to Remember

- We cannot stand in judgment of the culture if we have _____ God's design within our own families and churches.
- Most of the sin in the church is _____ sin and not _____ sin or _____ sin.
- We must stand for the _____ of God's design for gender, sex, marriage, and family.
- We must be filled with _____ for those embracing an identity with a corresponding lifestyle that goes against God's design.