

FACT, HISTORICAL AND VERY GOOD!
GOD CREATED US!
GENESIS CHAPTER 1:24-31

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

ILLUSTRATION

Freeman John Dyson FRS was a British-American theoretical physicist and mathematician known for his works in quantum field theory, astrophysics, random matrices, mathematical formulation of quantum mechanics, condensed matter physics, nuclear physics, and engineering. In his book “Scientific American” he states “As we look into the universe and identify many accidents of physics and astronomy that have worked together for our benefit, it almost seems as if the universe must in some sense have known that we were coming” (Cited in The Message of Genesis, David Atkinson, pg33)

The “GAG!”

GOD CREATED HUMAN BEINGS! V27

“Create” is a special verb in the Old Testament. It always has God as its subject: ***it is never used of human activity***. You and I may make or form or fashion, but only God creates. ***In Genesis Ch1 the verb “create” is used sparingly, reserved for the most crucial item's in God's plan: the universe (1:1), animate life (brought to life - 1:21), and man (1:27 - x3)***. And even more God created everything out of nothing. It is correct to say that the verb “bara” - meaning “create something from nothing”, contains the idea that God's creation work was completely “effortless”, making something from nothing!

GOD CREATED HUMAN BEINGS IN HIS IMAGE! V27

What does that mean?

1. To understand that we are meant to have a relationship with God, which represents God's and our spirituality (Is Ch43:7)!
2. To understand that we are meant to bring God glory, by enjoying Him and all that He has made (Psalm 16:11)!
3. To understand our worth and purpose in and from God (Gen Ch1:27 – ***the only part of God's creation, created in His image!***)
4. To understand that we have responsibility as God's image bearers (Gen Ch1:28)!
5. To understand that every human being has a worth as an image bearer of God (Gen Ch1:27)!
6. To understand that we have different roles as males and females, but the exact same value and worth in God (Gen Ch3:15-19)!
7. To understand that we are created for community (Gen Ch1:26)!
8. To understand that we are to have dominion over creation (v26 - dominion, v28 – subdue), by being good stewards of God's creation!
9. To understand that God has blessed us to have children (v28 – multiply)!
10. To understand that God created every thing good, especially our food supply (v29)!
11. To understand that we are meant to replicate God's image across the earth (Gen Ch1:28)!

GOD CREATED HUMAN BEINGS MALE AND FEMALE! V27

1. ***It is with joy in our finitude (recognising that as human beings we have limits) that we are to receive the gift of being either male or female.***
2. The account of creation in Genesis chapters 1 and 2, especially Genesis Ch1:26-28 provides that God created man in His own image, both male and female. **The passage implies that a unity of one man and one woman is in some way necessary to fully**

represent the image of God in mankind.

3. God created human beings as male and female (Genesis Ch1:27). The complementary, relational nature of the human race as “male and female” **reflects the created order given by God when He created human beings “in His image”** (Genesis Ch1:26-27; 5:1, 3; 9:6; 1 Corinthians Ch11:7; James Ch3:9; cf. Romans Ch8:29; 2 Corinthians Ch3:18; Ephesians Ch4:23-24; Colossians Ch3:10).
4. Scripture grants **two life-enhancing** options for sexual behaviour: monogamous marital relations between one man and one woman (Genesis Ch1:27-28; 2:18, 21-24; Matthew Ch19:4-6; Mark Ch10:5-8; cf. Hebrews Ch13:4)
5. Or sexual celibacy (1 Corinthians Ch7:7; Matthew Ch19:12).
6. Either is a gift from God, given as He wills for His glory and the good of those who receive and rejoice in His gift to them.
7. In Scripture monogamous heterosexual marriage bears a significance which goes beyond the regulation of sexual behaviour, the bearing and raising of children, the formation of families, and the recognition of certain economic and legal rights, all of which are important.
8. Marriage between a woman and a man is emphatically declared in Scripture to create a “one flesh” union (Genesis Ch2:23-24; Matthew Ch19:5), which in turn signifies the mystery of the union between Christ and His body, the Church (Ephesians Ch5:22-33).
9. Marriage is the original and foundational institution of human society, established by God as a one-flesh, covenantal union between a man and a woman.
10. It is life-long (until separated by death), exclusive (monogamous and faithful), commitments and companionship, and generative in nature (designed for bearing and rearing children).
11. It is to reflect the relationship between Christ and the Church.
12. Based on the teaching of the Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments, that marriage is an institution ordained by God from the foundation of the world, and intended as a lifelong union of one man and one woman.
13. Marriage is a divine creation by GOD.
14. Marriage is a gift from GOD.
15. Marriage is between a man and woman.
16. Marriage reunites what was separated.
17. Marriage both separates and unites.
18. Marriage is a one flesh union.
19. Marriage is the most important protective barrier.
20. Marriage projects JESUS' relationship to the Church.
21. Marriage is the place to procreate.
22. Marriage should live out God's care for creation.

The only part of God's creation that is said to be blessed is that part which is given **life**, animals and humans. The blessing here has the idea of a “salute or well wishing”. God is saying to the creatures with life **“You have something very special, use it well”**

The “it was very good” statement of Ch1:31 – shows completeness. God's pronouncement is not just that what he has created has inherently goodness in it, but what God created is what He intended it to be!

APPLICATION

We are God's image bearers!