

Imago Dei – Purpose

Meant for More // Week 2

1. Having created trees pleasant to the sight and good for food, God gave man his first purpose to care for this creation (v.15) – to cultivate, tend, form, shape, and keep it. How does this purpose show that man bore the image of God?
2. God created the animals as companions for the man. Man's second purpose was to name the animals (v.19-20). What are some things you name? What is the significance of giving something or someone a name? (What about the man's name?)
3. From both of these examples, how would you describe man's relationship with the rest of creation? (How does it reflect the relationship between God and man?)
4. Think about your current or your possible future vocation – what kind of work you do. How does it fit in the context of Genesis 2? What purpose has God given you personally in relationship to the creation?
5. Man's third purpose was to be in relationship with the woman (v.20-24). Man was created for and fulfilled by being in relationship with another person. You may think about a relationship with your spouse as in Genesis 2, or in another close relationship with family or friends in your life. Why do you think God made relationship part of man's purpose? If we are made in His image, what does it show us about Him?
6. How does knowing your purpose, given by God Himself, bring meaning to the things you do, receive, and feel? How does God use you, through your vocations at work or in relationship, to bring about goodness and beauty?
7. When one of our purposes goes unsatisfied or unfulfilled, we feel our brokenness and the brokenness of the creation and of other people. What hope do you find in Colossians 1:15-20? How do we find our fulfillment in Jesus Christ, even in the midst of fallen creation?
8. (Challenge question)...Read Romans 8:18-23. What do we learn here about the relationship between man and creation when it comes to our redemption?