

*Home Group Notes **Human 3***

Genesis 2:15-26 Mark 10:1-9 God's image bearers 2

Introduction

'We are what we eat' is a novel approach to human identity. Some suggest that Gen 1:29-30 is God's eternal ordinance for humans (and animals) to be vegan. Given God's purpose of fruitful multiplication, is it a surprise that he encourages full use of fruit and vegetables?

Is this verse telling me I ought to adopt a vegan lifestyle? And my cat too?

Read Gen 9:1-4 where the call to be fruitful and multiply is restated.

Read Mark 7:14-23 What is Jesus' clear teaching on what is right to eat? Are there valid reasons why veganism might be a good lifestyle choice?

Recap

Read Gen 1:26-27

Do you find encouragement that you are made in God's image?

How do we reflect God's image?

Hear from God: Read Genesis 2:15-26

1. Into what circumstances is the first man placed? What does that tell us about his relationship with God?
2. What is the fatal flaw in humanity which God makes clear to the first human?
3. Why do you think God placed the tree in the garden at all?
4. What is 'not good'. Why? Is God just referring to romantic attachment?
5. Why the parade of animals? How does that reinforce what we saw in Psalm 8?
6. In this account, how is the woman made? What does that tell us?
7. The nursery rhyme says little girls are made of 'sugar and spice and all things nice' and that little boys are made of 'slugs and snails and puppy-dogs' tails'. What is Genesis 2 saying?
8. Why does the man need a helper? The helper is of the same stuff but not a clone. How are men and women equal but different?
9. How do women help men? How do men help women?
10. Is it a good thing for males and females to work together in
 - a. all work situations?
 - b. all social situations?

11. In order for God's purpose of multiplication, fruitfulness and responsibility to be fulfilled, how is the relationship between the first man and woman expressed?
12. Why does this passage help us understand God's good design for gender, sexuality and relationships?
13. How is marriage a picture of the Triune God?

Apply these things to your life

1. Read Mark 10:1-9. How does Jesus apply verses from Genesis chapters 1&2? Why is this significant?
2. Did Jesus think these scriptures written centuries previously were out of date? What authority did he recognise in them? You too?
3. The Old Testament people of God significantly disobeyed this teaching, eg Jacob, David and Solomon married more than one wife. How did things work out in their families when God's plan for fruitfulness was changed or added to? Was that a coincidence?
4. How does Genesis 1&2 help us think about the 'hot topics' of gender and sexuality? For further discussion: please do visit <http://www.livingout.org/>
5. How big a problem is loneliness in our society? In your life?
6. How does church help people who are lonely? Why is it foolish to depend on romantic attachments to alleviate our loneliness?
7. How can you reach out to your fellow image bearers who are lonely this week?

Prayer pointers

Pray for faithfulness to Jesus' teaching in all of the churches

Pray for those of us who find these human issues particularly difficult

And for those facing dilemmas caught between society's demands and Christ's call

Pray for those doing our church membership course and those preparing for baptism and confirmation