

1 Humanity, the Imago Dei

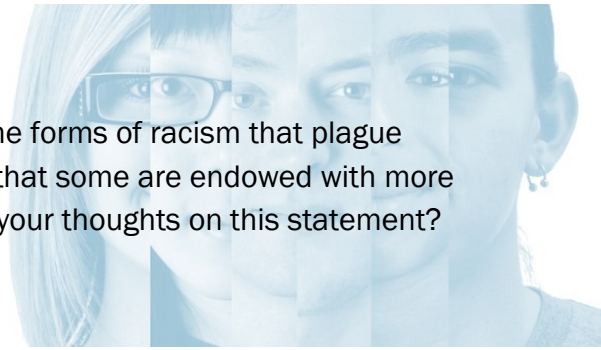
Genesis 1:26-27; 2:15-25; Psalm 8

Key verse

“But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. (Heb. 2:9 NIV)

Getting started

At the heart of the most extreme forms of racism that plague society, “is the inherent belief that some are endowed with more dignity than others.” What are your thoughts on this statement?



Going deeper

Read Genesis 1:27-28

Our exploration of God’s calling all nations to himself must begin with an exploration of humanity. Genesis 1 describes humankind as the high point of God’s creative achievement.

Under the following four headings, from verses 27 & 28, what does it mean for humanity to be made in God’s image and likeness?

1) **Rule** (see also Gen 2:15-17)

2) **Relationship** (see also Gen 2:18-25)

Just as God is one yet three persons, humanity also exists as one yet with diversity (male and female). This confirms the importance of relationships as well as the dignity and uniqueness of individual persons as seen in the Trinity.

3) God’s unique **Representatives** (what makes us unique from all other living things?)

4) **Resemblance** (From what we learn of God’s character in Genesis 1 and 2, how have we been designed to reflect him?)

Read Psalm 8

5) What does Psalm 8 confirm about the majesty of God and the dignity of man?

→ Taking it home

Against modern evolutionary theories and the concept of ‘race’ as a biological construct that separates humanity according to perceived physical/biological differences, the Bible confirms that there is only one race, *the human race*, which in its entirety is entrusted with the dignified vocation of ruling over creation, resembling his creator, and experiencing relationship in community.

How does our Key Verse (Heb 2:9) confirm the dignity of everyone?

Discuss & **Pray** through the implications of this study for our world.