

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth....28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that .moves on the earth." This is an instance where a biblical worldview is helpful. A Christian worldview only applies to Christians, but a biblical worldview is for everyone.

Part One: Who Am I? Part Two: Restoring Human Identity and Purpose Part Three: Why Am I? Part Four: Factors That Hinder Imago Dei Part Five: The Image of Love Part Six: A Mother's Provision This is an instance where a biblical worldview is helpful. A Christian worldview only applies to Christians, but a biblical worldview is for everyone.

Human Creation Mandate God's image - Character God's likeness - Outward witness Dominion - Responsibility, tasks, duty, service Fruitful - Utilizing abilities and gifts Multiply - Reproduce yourself, empower others Subdue - Create and maintain order We know what imago Dei meant to Adam. What does it mean to us?

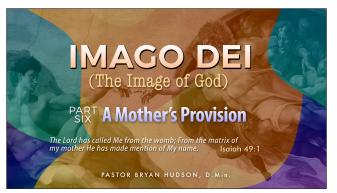


Knowing who you are is foundational to both a healthy self-image and a strong sense of purpose.

Humankind was created to be an image bearer of the Creator. This ideal state was to be a representation of who God is and what He is like. Of course, humanity is far from this ideal state. "The imago Dei is not a quality possessed by man; it is a condition in which man lives, a condition of confrontation established and maintained by the Creator. ... The imago Dei is that in man which constitutes him as him-whom-God-loves." -John Piper

You ARE By Grace

1 Corinthians 15:9, For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 **But by the grace of God I am what I am**, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. What I am in Christ, grace has made. Grace is favor, but it is also God's ability and heaven's resources made available to you



Isaiah 49:1, "Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The Lord has called Me from the womb; From **the matrix** of My mother He has made mention of My name. 2 And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me." 3 "And He said to me, 'You are My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.'" Isaiah understood his mother's provision. From the MATRIX means "inward parts." But the womb is already within. We could interpret this, with our understanding today, as DNA.

I read that the mother's DNA contribution to a child in some ways is impactful in ways different than the father. There is something called Mitochondrial DNA which is inherited from the mother. While men receive mitochondrial DNA from their mother, they do not pass it on to their children.

He said his mouth was a "sharp sword" —- perhaps like his mother. He has made me a polished shaft or arrow. Isaiah became a finely made tool or weapon in God's arsenal God's plan for helping us realize Imago Dei continues through the process of birth. Everybody is born of a woman, and everybody is created at birth in the image and likeness of God. Your mother is proof of your Imago Dei. As with Mary, your mother births you into this world. Some children are adopted, but the same principle of applies. Remember that we are all adopted in Christ. Jesus was the only begotten, or born, son.

Proverbs 30:11, There is a generation that curses its father, And does not bless its mother. 12 There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, Yet is not washed from its filthiness.

Hebrews 2:5 For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. 6 But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? 7 You have made him a **little lower than the angels;** You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet." God made us a little lower than the angels (Greek Her. 2:7: Angelos – Hebrew Psa 8:5: 'Elōhîm).

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For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

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Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity (hostility) between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

Her "Seed" would eventually lead to the birth of Jesus

It is interesting to consider how women have been mistreated and denigrated in history, in culture, and in some religions. There has been a demonic effort to eradicate imago day and people by denigrating women who bring people into the world. We all know the effects on children born to addicts or born into abusive families. Then there are children who are not born at all

because of selective abortion. Mother and father are essential to children knowing who they are, knowing their value, and knowing God. Distorting or destroying the DNA and Imago Dei in women and men hinders the destiny of their children, and the human race. I read that the mother's DNA contribution to a child in some ways is impactful in ways different than the father. There is something called Mitochondrial DNA which is inherited from the mother. While men receive mitochondrial DNA from their mother, they do not pass it on to their children.

Mother's Provision is Essential to Imago Dei

Josiah was eight years old when he became king....His mother's name was Jedidah the (2 Kings 22:1,)

Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king...His mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem (2 Chr. 26:3)

Hezekiah became king when he was twenty-five years old....His mother's name was Abijah (2 Chronicles 29:1)

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Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king...His mother's name was Jerushah (2 Chronicles 27:1)

Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king...His mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 25:1)

Paul spoke about Timothy's mother & grandmother

2 **Timothy 1:5,** When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother **Lois** and your mother **Eunice**, and I am persuaded is in you also.

One of the first mandates and commands to God's people related to **preserving and maximizing Imago Dei**

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you." (Exodus 20:12) The purpose of honoring father and mother is in recognizing the image of God and yourself. People who disrespected the people who bring them into the world can never have proper self-respect.