

Beginnings

3. *The beginning of humanity* (Gen. 1v26-31)

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Introduction

- Who are we?

Humanity's great dignity (v26-27)

- Being made in God's image
 - Resemblance
 - Relationship
 - Rule
- The implications
 - How we relate to God
 - To ourselves
 - To other people

Humanity's great task (v28-31)

- Multiplying and filling
 - *"Be fruitful and increase in number..."*
- Subduing and ruling
 - Not exploitation but development

Conclusion

- *"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God!"* (1 Cor. 10v31)

Genesis 1v26-31 (NIV)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Further reading

Julian Hardyman, *"Glory Days"* (Great book looking at what it means to live all of life for the glory of God)

Vaughan Roberts, *"God's Big Design"* (Good thematic study of Genesis 1-3 including chapters on what it means to be made in God's image, and on the environment)