

Radiant Church, July 5, 2020
Mike Rydman

We Believe God Loves

Genesis 1:27-28 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Isaiah 43:7 *Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.*

We are Created for God's glory

Giving God the glory means we live for His glory

John 10:10b *I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

Giving God the glory means we "enjoy" Him

Psalms 16:11 *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

We are Created in God's Image

All Creation reflects its Creator God

Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

But we've been created different from the rest of Creation, for a higher purpose
We are moral creatures (an innate sense of right and wrong)

We are spiritual creatures (allows us to relate to Him)

Our capacity to take in and process information (reflects God's knowledge)

Our innate desire for community (reflects our Triune God in community)

Sin has defiled us as image-bearers

James 3:9 *With (our tongue) we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.*

Sin distorts our moral thinking

Sin distorts our acknowledging God

Sin distorts our relationships

Sin distorts our priorities

Sin distorts our purposes

Our image is being restored, to look more and more like Jesus

Romans 8:29-30

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Colossians 1:15 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*

Colossians 3:10 *...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

Someday, we will be fully restored image-bearers

1 Corinthians 15:49 *Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*

Ancient kings would place statues of themselves all around the kingdom, to remind his subjects who was ruling

God has created all of mankind to show Who rules

As God's representatives we steward and care for the physical world, and everything in it

When we improve anything, when we create beauty, we bear evidence of God's glory

When we are generous toward others, toward our church, we show others our generous God. John Piper: "Grace comes down, Joy rises up, and Generosity flows out"

As God's heralds, we proclaim the rule and glory of our God to His Creation

We have to believe that anyone, if God ordains, has the potential to return to their created role as image-bearers of Jesus

Revelation 21:1-5a *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."*

The believer's hope is to know Christ

Is God useful or beautiful to you?

Do you seek Him because He is a means to the good life? Or because He is the good life?

The believer's hope is to be like Christ

We are freed from the penalty of sin

We are being freed from the power of sin

We will eventually be freed from the very presence of sin

The believer's hope is to be with Christ

1 Peter 1:3-5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*