



A BETTER WORD

BEYOND REPAIR

A Study Through Genesis 1–11 | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

Who You Came From

Genesis 1:26–27; 2:4–17

THE BIG IDEA

Because you are made in God's image, your worth is not determined by what you've done or what's been done to you — it's rooted in who you came from.

SERMON SUMMARY

We naturally look to our earthly parents to understand who we are — but Genesis 1 points us to a deeper and greater origin. At the pinnacle of creation, God doesn't merely make something new; he makes someone who bears his own image and likeness. To be human is to uniquely reflect the King of Kings — holy, rational, relational, and purposeful.

God's image in you speaks to both your worth and your purpose. No matter what has crumpled or dirtied your life, the imprint of God upon you never loses its value. And because you bear that image, you are called to live in a way that represents him — through the work you do, the people you serve, and the relationship you share with God himself.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Genesis 1:26–27 says God created humans in his “image” and “likeness.” What are some of the ways scholars understand these two words? What does Genesis 5:1–3 add to our understanding of what it means to be made in God's image, using the father-son comparison?
2. If bearing God's image means being “like God” and “representing God,” what does that tell us about our internal makeup (conscience, reason, soul) and our external role (relationship, dominion)?
3. In Genesis 2:15, God places man in the garden “to work it and to keep it.” Work is built into creation before the fall. How does this change the way you think about work? How does Ephesians 2:10 connect our identity as God's “workmanship” to the good works God prepared for us?
4. James 3:9–10 warns that we “bless the Lord and Father” and also “curse people who are made in the likeness of God.” In what specific ways does knowing that every person is an image-bearer shape how we speak about people and relate to them — especially people we find difficult?
5. Sin distorts the image of God in us and rearranges our sense of worth — like the example Pastor Nick shared about switching price tags in a jewelry store. Yet Ephesians 4:22–24 calls us to put on a new self, “created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” What is one area of your life where you've believed a false price tag? How does the gospel reclaim your true worth?

LIVING IT OUT

The world constantly tells you what you're worth based on what you look like, what you've achieved, or how entertaining you are. But God has signed you with his own image — and that signature doesn't fade. Whether crumpled by failure or worn down by life, you are of immeasurable value to him.

Heart Check: Where have you allowed the world's price tags to define your worth? Is there a person in your life whom you've been treating as less valuable than they are as a bearer of God's image?

This Week: Choose one relationship where your words have been careless or unkind. This week, intentionally speak words that reflect the worth of that person as someone made in God's image. Consider sharing with them why you're doing it.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

— **Genesis 1:27**

Ask God to help you see yourself and the people around you the way he sees you — as image-bearers of immeasurable worth — and to show you one relationship where you can reflect his image more faithfully this week.

Your Prayer:

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