



Leader

4/23 - Genesis 1:26-27

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How is your walk with the Lord? Did you have any opportunities to share the Lord with anyone?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement? How can we pray, encourage, and show love to them?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. Let's read our primary text. The writer of Genesis uses the term "image." Why do you think this specific term was used? Several other terms could have been used.

The term "image" would have been a familiar term in the ancient world. Author John Frame states, "Images were simply statues or pictures, intended to represent someone, often a God or King." He goes on to say, "God forbids the worship of images (as expressed in the 2nd Commandment). Yet, there is an image of the true God, ourselves."

3. The Bible reveals that we are made in the image of God and in His likeness. Read Hebrews 1:1-4. How does the author of Hebrews elevate Jesus?

The author says that Jesus is more than the just likeness of God, but He is the exact imprint of God Himself. He was God; not created, eternal.

4. Male and Female were made in the image of God, in His likeness. What does this say about God and His "gender"? How does Scripture help us with this? What do we know about God?

God has numerous attributes; some we share with Him, others we do not. One attribute we do not share is that God is Spirit, which means He is neither Male nor Female. However, God chose to reveal Himself to us in Scripture as male. There are hundreds of references to God as Father, King, or Husband. Also, God's greatest revelation of Himself came to us in the form of a man, the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Lastly, the Greek word *theos* (a masculine noun) appears over 900 times in the Bible. Therefore, it is normative in the Bible to refer to God in the masculine form. Though God is Spirit (not male or female), His otherness should not diminish what He clearly states in Scripture considering the two genders. [Note: All motherly characteristics applied to God in Scripture are used in the form of simile (example: like a mother comforts a child, Isaiah 66:13)]

5. Why do you think God wants us to think of Him as male, as evidenced in Scripture?

It represents authority in the Bible. Author John Frame says, "Scripture wants us to think of God as male. One likely explanation is that God wants us to know Him as Lord, and Lordship, in Scripture always connotes authority."

6. Some may make the argument that Jesus would affirm more than two genders. How might you respond to this? What passage might clarify this?

Matthew 19:3-6 says...And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" [4] He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, [5] and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? [6] So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

7. How does this text cause us to change? What does it make you consider in your own life?

[Dialogue]

8. How might you share this passage/truth with someone else? A child? A family member?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Is there anyone that needs an invite to our church or this group?
- Is there anyone you know who needs to hear what we learned today in God's word?
- Does anyone here need a "refresher" on how to share the gospel?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today," ... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Without getting too specific, is there anything you want to confess before the group? [apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply his word to our lives, putting to death sinful desires.

HOMEWORK:

- **Memorize our weekly "Fighter Verse"** - Rom 12:9-10

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible (Crossway)
- gotquestions.org/masculine-pronouns-God
- *The Doctrine of the Christian Life* - John Frame, pg. 623-627