

Humanity as God Intended

Sunday, January 10, 2016

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...' (Gen. 1:26)

'For the first time since Adam fell into sin, there was on earth a man as God intended man to be'.

Major Ian Thomas, *The Indwelling Life of Christ*

Prayer for the New Year:

Gracious and loving God, it is with thankfulness that I hear your call to become Christ-like. Something deep within my heart stirs from its heavy slumber. The memory of something I was to have been, but am not, yet could still be, flits on the fringes of my consciousness. O Loving God, stir up this hunger in my heart until it becomes the all-consuming passion of my life.

Sermon Outline:

- I. Humanity: Not the Creatures God Intended

- II. Sin: The Many Faces of a Broken Image

- III. Origins: The Doctrine of the Imago Dei

- IV. Redemption: Restoring What was Broken

Questions for Reflection / Discussion:

- How does a Biblical anthropology differ from a secular one?
- What implications does the doctrine of the image of God have on how we view sin, how we relate to sinners, and how we present Christ?
- How does this doctrine help you address the big questions of life, like your purpose for living?

*Come, Desire of Nations, come! Fix in us Thy humble home.
Adam's likeness now efface, Stamp Thine image in its place.
Second Adam from above, Reinststate us in Thy love.*

... that the body of Christ may be built up. (Eph. 4:12)