

# It's All Relational

## Genesis 1:26 – 28; 2:18 – 22

### I. Intro

- A. **Everything has a beginning – except for God, of course; Revelation 1:8 (ESV)**
  - 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”
- B. **Understanding a “beginning” is critical because it provides answer to question – Why?; often reveals the mind/thinking of the inventor**
- C. **The human race had a beginning – there are many varied opinions on what that beginning was; the Bible, God’s Truth – God’s Holy Word, is the only true/completely accurate source for the beginning of man/woman**
- D. **Believing and understanding that “beginning” – creation account in Genesis – leads us to understand the heart/purpose of the “Inventor” of human race – Creator God**
- E. **The account of all that exists being made from absolutely nothing, *without form and void* ... nothing but darkness (**Genesis 1:2**) can only make sense when believing that a Divine Creator also exists**
- F. **Atoms, molecules, matter don’t just suddenly appear as a result of a “big bang”; even that “big bang” had to have an origin/catalyst behind it**
- G. **Believing that origin/catalyst was God, “Inventor” of all creation, is essential for us to answer the question, Why? What is the reason we are on this planet?**
- H. **To find the reason: (two passages) **READ Genesis 1:26 – 28; 2:18 -22****
- I. **Two important aspects of Christian life – a relational image, and relational purpose**

### II. A Relational Image

- A. **(v. 26) ... *Let us make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness*; in this statement, at the very core of God’s image – God is relational**
- B. **Reading God’s Word, beginning with creation – God and Adam, a pattern is repeated from start to finish; desire of God to have personal/intimate relationship between us and Him – also, relationships with each other**
- C. **We have been created in this same *relational* image of God; evidence found in life of Jesus Christ**
- D. **Picture of relationship between God and Christ in Gospel John: John 1:1-2 (ESV)**
  - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
  - 2 He was in the beginning with God.

- E. **The depth of this relationship discovered as we dig further in our understanding of scripture – God is one, yet at the same time – God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**
- F. **Ultimate relational move by Jesus; John 1:14 (ESV)**  
14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, ...
- G. **The one, true, and only God is not a god who is distant/impersonal from His own creation; He is a God who puts forth every effort to be closely relational with us**
- H. **Statement:** I don't feel that kind of relationship with God – not been my experience; that's not a God problem, that's a flesh/sin/heart problem on your part
  - i. **James 4:8 (ESV)**  
8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

### III. A Relational Purpose

- A. **Question:** How does this answer the question – why were we created? Being created in God's image, relational image, our purpose is defined – to live a life in a personal/intimate relationship with our Creator, a caring/protective relationship with creation, and a loving/nurturing relationship with one another
- B. **Relationship with creation – REFER Genesis 1:28**
  - i. *dominion* – two Hebrew words, both meaning *to be in charge of, to be responsible for*
  - ii. God created all of nature and He has left us in charge of it and to be responsible in our care/protection of it (not environmentalist, or climate change advocate – just stating simple fact taken from God's Word)
- C. **Relationship with one another – REFER Genesis 2:18;** so God creates FOR MAN, *beast of the field ... bird of the heavens ... every living creature,* BUT none of those are suitable/compatible for a true companion for man to have close relationship with; so God creates *woman ... bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh* – another living being made in image of God and image of man, another of man's own kind
- D. **Words of Jesus in Gospels – Matthew, Mark, and Luke) - Luke 10:27 (ESV)**  
27 ... “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, **and your neighbor as yourself.**”
- E. **Powerful prayer of Jesus near end of His life; could've prayed for many things, but He specifically prayed for one thing – us to be relational**
  - i. **John 17:20-21 (ESV)**

20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

ii. **Question:** How important is this close relationship with God and with one another? Demonstration to the world (unbelievers) so that *the world may believe*

F. Jesus doesn't just wish/desire this for us, there is intentional purpose behind His request – it's because He fully knows that if we don't live in close/personal/spiritual relationships with God, the Father/Creator through close/personal/spiritual relationship with God, the Son then life becomes meaningless, without purpose, useless

G. That's our relational purpose – to live out this very reason for our existence

H. This all brings us back to the importance of discipleship – growing in our relationship with God through Christ our Lord and Savior, and growing in our spiritual relationship with one another as God's family – brothers and sisters in Christ

#### IV. Close

A. When we live in the way that God intended for us to live, when we live in the way God created us to live, that's when real/meaningful/purposeful life happens; that's when we truly become alive because all of life then makes sense

B. That's why Jesus Himself, prayed it for us – He wants us to understand/experience fullness of life – this adventure/journey that He has placed us in

C. Only when we're in close relationship, with Him and each other, that will be exactly what we'll experience

D. **John 10:10 (ESV):** Jesus says ...

10 ... I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.