

Reflection Questions: Genesis 1:26-29; 2:15

For the message, "What On Earth Are We Here For?" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on September 23, 2018

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read / Review the Scripture text: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15

A summary of the message: By establishing the earth as his Kingdom, our Creator God both endowed humanity with his image (to represent him) and entrusted us with power (to partner with him in ruling this world). The Bible is the story of how God gets this story back on track, as Jesus—the true image of God—brings us back in line with our design. The end of the storyline of the Scriptures portrays Jesus ruling this world as his kingdom and sharing that rule with a redeemed and restored humanity.

Key Scriptures:

- Colossians 1:15,16, 19-20, "He is the image of the invisible God.... For by him all things were created in heaven and on earth.... For in him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross."
- Revelation 11:15, "The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."
- Revelation 22:3 & 5, "No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.... the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever."
- 2 Peter 3:13, "In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells."

Bottom Line: Human beings are given the sacred calling of being human. We are like the animal kingdom in that we are a part of creation, but we are also unlike animals in that we are like God, bearing his image and given the direction to exercise loving dominion over this world.

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- What does this text teach us about God and his creation of humanity? In other words, how does this text help us to understand humanity's original dignity and calling?
- When I forget the truth of this passage, what lies fill that vacuum? What wrong thoughts or actions might result for a failure to grasp or appreciate or live out this truth?

- How does this text show you your need for the cleansing, renewing, transforming grace of God?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- What does this mean for us as we live out our faith in our city? In other words, if this text really governed the lives of folks at MHC, how would that inform the way we viewed our callings and our work here in BCS from Monday through Saturday?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith? What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?
- How does this text help us understand God's mission in our city?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- _____
- _____
- _____

Key Quotes:

- J. Richard Middleton, A New Heaven and a New Earth, "It is not just some elite person (the king or a priest) who manifests God's presence on earth. Rather, the entire human race—and each person, male and female, no matter what their social standing—is made in the image of God. The Bible radically universalizes and democratizes the image of God and applies it to everyone."
- Andy Crouch, Playing God: "Now God is personally invested and involved. This is no distant sovereign decree; it is an intensely personal decision to crown creation with the image bearers who will themselves be invited to share their maker's dominion over the world."
- CS Lewis, The Weight of Glory, "It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses.... There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal."