

Friday, October 27th,

Genesis 1:26-28- “Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind* in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,* and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’²⁷ So God created humankind* in his image, in the image of God he created them;* male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’”

When I struggle to battle against the gravitational forces of money and possessions, it is to this passage that I turn. Here is what we know to be true. God is generous. So generous that God was willing to pay all the debt of our sinfulness, a debt we could not repay, so that we could be united with God now and forever. That generosity runs so deeply that to pay that debt, God took on humanity and gave his own life as a sacrifice for our sins. The ultimate gift, the richest action of love and affection is what God offered to us. We are made in that image, to be like that. That means we are created to have a deep generosity that lives and moves through us.

It is on days when I am struggling with my sinful selfishness that I try to justify my activity by saying things like: “I am just not wired to be generous” or “That is someone else’s gift, I do other things for the Kingdom.”. But I have to confront myself with the truth of this scripture, and recognize the lies that I am telling to make myself feel better. I am created to be generous. It is a part of who I am, but a part that has been dulled and tarnished by evil and sinfulness.

We are made in the image of God, and meant to bear that image as effectively and faithfully as possible. We have the power and potential to be generous not because we are good people, but rather because we were knit together in the image of the one true, and good God. The practice of generosity has less to do with us, and far more to do with us tapping into God in us, and allowing that to flow through our lives. So, let's feel the lift of who God made us to be and become, and start to take flight.

Questions for the Day

1. What does it mean to you to be made in the image of God? What characteristic of God do you see most in yourself and in your family?
2. How does understanding the salvation we receive through Christ's death and resurrection as an act of generosity make you feel?