



### **Creation Command Ten: The Gatekeepers of Creation**

Genesis 1:26 *“Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*

I heard a story of Michelangelo being asked how he made a statue from a slab of marble. He said that it begins with him seeing the finish product and not a slab of marble. That is how God does it. Do you think that he just randomly made creation? I’ll make a fish and then add water. Did he make plants and then make light? No! God made everything in a certain order. An order that makes something and then puts it in motion. Everything God created was built so that the next thing needed it. Plants need light. Fish need water. What if I said that humans needed creation to survive?

In all honesty, this verse might be the greatest. What if humans were made to reflect their creator. What if we survive as spiritual beings directly because we were made by a spiritual creator? Everything needs the creation before it. It’s not enough for God to just make fish or land. He must ask them to go forth and multiply. To not only survive but thrive. The big part is the push. God says “let them.” To me, it’s God giving it a push forward like a boat. I would also say it’s like a baby bird being pushed out of the nest. God makes and then he enables. What if humans were enabled (spiritually) to take care of creation.

Through a study I did in university, I found a correlation between the land, animals, and our sin. In so many ways sin is spiritual. Humans don't do well mentally when we do wrong. There is mental anguish, guilt, stress, and fear. All of these things work on our body in a negative way. You plainly see that sinful humans have hurt this earth? From water to animals, this planet is becoming unlivable as we get more violent and complicated. God said in Genesis 3 that man would have to struggle with thorns and thistles while he took care of creation. I think humans have struggled knowing their place in creation.

1 Corinthians 11:3 *"But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the husband is the head of his wife, and God is the head of Christ."*

God began human life by saying *"Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness."* Humans began as a reflection of God. Maybe even a reflection of the very best God could create. People love to say that we are His image. My kids reflect my parenting. They mildly look like me, but they do act like me in so many ways. They are my kids. We are God's creation (kids). We were supposed to be like Him. The verse above has been used to enact authority over wives and kids. What if that verse was really all about how we affect wives and kids? God spiritually affects His Son, Jesus. Jesus affects humans that are under him. Jesus embodies goodness and God's likeness upon those who believe. Those male believers are supposed to embody that spiritual likeness on their family.

Look at the creation commands. They are about building and enacting. Each part is helpful to the next part. Nothing was created that hurt the next creation. God is always moving forward by the Spirit of the Lord. This whole study has proved that God is consistent and purposeful. All creation was made for humans to thrive under God. Yet, God is going one step further in this tenth and final command of creation. Humans are made and now they are asked to

Go forth and multiply? No, they are told to rule over all that has been made. Rule with an entitled iron fist? No, they are to tend to God's creation, not dominate it.

If you read on in the rest of Genesis 1, you will see that God then asks humans to be fruitful and multiply. To subdue creation. God said to humans that He gives to them all the plants and animals. It's like it's a gift. God's final act as creator. Humans are part of creation. Yet, they are clearly so much more. We are the only creature made in God's image. We are the only one that is asked to rule over. I would even go further by saying that humans are given the opportunity to be God's gate keepers to creation. It comes back to what Paul said in 1 Corinthians. First there was God. Then he created the earth and all that is in it. Creation needs God. Then God creates humans from that very dust of creation. Don't miss that. The land and creation are connected to us. We need creation to survive. So, we better take care of it!

The cycle is set. God creates and God enacts. Humans now can create many things. Then we are supposed to enact them. We build a car and make it go. People create plans and then build them. Yet, our lands are sick. We have not enacted the right way. Many humans have said they don't need the spiritual part of creation. One part is bound to each part. Our oceans, land, forests, and air need a healthy human taking care of it. In all honesty, is global warming and pandemics about a sick planet or sick humans? All ten commands of creation were meant to work together. They were meant to further the kingdom of God. Next week I'm going to add one command that came from people in Genesis 11. The place where humans (in one final act of rebellion) went the wrong way and broke the spiritual bond.