

## **Sermon Discussion Questions: January 18, 2026**

### **The Image of God and the Value of Life**

#### **Call to Worship: Psalm 8:3-9**

1. Verses 4-6 are quoted three times in the New Testament (1 Cor, Eph, and Hebrews). If we believe that Scripture uses repetition for emphasis, what important teaching is God conveying in these verses?
2. How do these verses relate to the theme of the sermon?

#### **Sermon: Genesis 1:26-31**

##### **I. When God Does Something Special – Verse 26a**

1. In what sense are humans uniquely (as opposed to the rest of creation) made in the image of God?
2. If we agree that human life is sacred from birth to death, consider some of the political implications. Do we have a moral mandate to:
  - a. Oppose the death penalty?
  - b. Support universal health care?
  - c. Support programs that alleviate poverty by providing money, food, or shelter?
3. If you believe there is an allusion to the trinity in this verse, support your belief.

##### **II. Image of God – Verses 26b-27**

4. The stars, animals, and landscapes reflect God's \_\_\_\_\_ but not God's \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Prior to the fall, humanity was assigned dominion over the creation, ordered to maintain the garden in Eden, and commanded to fill and subdue the earth. What are the implications of this regarding “work”?
6. God has kept and will keep all his promises. Pastor Paul used this as an example of why humans, made in God's image, should keep commitments. Give another example of how our behavior should reflect our nature as image-bearers.

### **III. Stewardship of Life – Verse 28**

7. If we agree that the value of humans is intrinsic and God-given, rather than performance-based, how might that affect our:
  - a. Finances?
  - b. Relationships?
8. Nazis believed that 'some life is unworthy of life'. If we reject that belief, what are the underlying philosophical beliefs we must also reject?
9. If we are reading or listening to something (especially online) what kind of wording would be a clue that the writer/speaker has no regard for the intrinsic value of humanity?
10. Name a non-Biblical person whose language consistently expressed a belief in the intrinsic value of humans.

### **IV. God's Provision and Approval – Verses 29-31**

11. If we agree with Pastor Paul that:
  - a. Dogs do not have eternal souls.
  - b. Humanity is unique in bearing God's image.Does there remain any possibility that Pastor Paul's dog, Pringle, will be in heaven? Support your answer with scripture.
12. Every time we sin, we should repent. Share a scripture that explains repentance.
13. Some congregations devote most of their resources to alleviating the suffering of the poor and other disadvantaged or peripheral groups. They are often criticized by evangelical churches as promoting a "social gospel". How do we properly apportion church resources between spiritual and material work?
14. Some churches display a sign: Wherever you are in your life journey, you are welcome here. Do you believe that message is consistent with this sermon?
15. AI Question : As those entrusted with dominion, how should we faithfully steward and enjoy God's creation?

#### **Prayer Points:**

- Pray for a Culture of Life: Ask God to give our nation a renewed "fear of the Lord" that leads to a deep, practical reverence for the Imago Dei in every person, from conception to natural death.

- **Pray for the Vulnerable:** Intercede for those whose lives are often undervalued—the unborn, the elderly, the disabled, and the impoverished—asking God to move the Church to be their greatest defenders.
- **Pray for Compassion and Healing:** Ask God to make the church a refuge of grace for those who have been wounded by the culture of death, providing healing for those who have experienced the pain of abortion or neglect.