

# The Covenant with Adam: “Let Us Make Man in Our Image”

Scripture Readings: Genesis 1:26-28; Matthew 28:18-20

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Dear Congregation of Christ: In a brief speech before the House a few days ago, Representative Ted Lieu from Southern California said, “I just thought I would now recite for you what Jesus Christ said about homosexuality.” He then kept silent for about 20 seconds before ending his speech with, “I yield back.” What he wanted to show with this 20-second silence was that our Lord never mentioned anything about homosexuality in his teachings.

Lieu also criticized several pitchers on the Tampa Bay Rays team for not wearing a Pride Month patch on their jerseys. In his Twitter account, he wrote, “Pitcher Jason Adam should read the New Testament. This is what Jesus said about homosexuality.” He follows this with a blank space inside quotation marks. Then, he continued, “Jesus is about love, not about hating people who are different from you.”

Rep. Lieu, who calls himself “a practicing Catholic,” pretends to know the Bible, but obviously, his mind is clouded and his eyes blinded by the wicked culture promoting demonic ideas. It is true that Jesus never mentioned the word “homosexual,” but our Lord was crystal clear about this subject. When Jesus was confronted by the Pharisees about divorce, he answered, *“Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’”*

This liberal congressman from Southern California, who pretends to be a Christian, exposed his Biblical illiteracy. In arguing from silence that Jesus agrees that homosexuality is not a sin, he makes Jesus contradict the rest of Holy Scriptures. He disagrees that God created “binary” human beings, male and female; that there are no third, fourth, fifth or whatever number of genders in the LGBTQ alphabet soup. Lieu is also ignorant of Old Testament texts that say that homosexuality is an abomination to the Lord. In addition, he probably never read the Apostle Paul’s condemnation of homosexuality in Romans 1, 1 Corinthians 6, and 1 Timothy 1.

Today, we continue with our series on “God’s Covenants With Man.” Last Sunday, we started with God’s covenant with Adam in the Garden of Eden, commonly known as the covenant of works. It was a covenant of works since God’s promise of eternal life hinged on his obedience to obey God’s commandment not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. On the fifth day of creation, God created Adam in his own image, his image reflected in Adam’s perfect righteousness, holiness, and knowledge of God his Creator (Eph 4:24; Col 3:10).

But this covenant with Adam also includes three other aspects surrounding Adam’s creation as the image of God. These three aspects attached to the covenant of works are commonly known as the “cultural mandate.” The cultural mandate is what God has commanded man to do with his creation to glorify God and love his neighbor. First, God commanded man to have dominion over

and subdue his creation. The second mandate is that man must recognize God's male-and-female creation with male-and-female marriage. Third and last, man must bear godly children and spread through all the earth, so the earth would be full of people worshiping and giving glory to God. So, our theme today is, **"Let Us Make Man in Our Image,"** under these three headings.

### **"Let Them Have Dominion Over All the Earth"**

The first mandate that God appointed for man was, *"Let them have dominion"* over every living creature and over *"all the earth,"* meaning, over all his creation. Notice also in verse 28, this dominion includes "subduing" creation. In Genesis 2:15, God commands Adam to *"work it and keep it,"* referring to the Garden of Eden. What does "dominion" mean? And how is man to "subdue" the earth, and to "work it and keep it"?

This dominion images God's dominion over all of his creation. God blessed man and made him his vice-regent or co-ruler over his creation, giving him authority over all creatures of the earth. Environmental activists, some of whom are Christians, argue that having dominion and subduing creation are actually man serving nature. However, the word translated "have dominion" is a strong verb in the sense of ruling over one's enemies and over other nations (Isa 14:2, 6). And the word translated "subdue" is also a strong word, the subduer even requiring force (Num 32:22, 29; Jos 18:1; Jer 34:11, 16). On the other hand, this dominion and subduing is not a license for wanton abuse of creation for selfish motives. Therefore, mankind's dominion as the image of God is not only of superiority and priority over the rest of creation, but also one of wisdom and responsibility as stewards accountable to God for what he does with God's cherished creation.

God endued man with his image, giving him moral and intellectual capacity to rule over creation as God's wise and responsible steward. But it is not to be because of Adam's fall into sin. His perfect righteousness, holiness and knowledge of God were corrupted. Because of sin, man became an idolater. Paul says that rather than worshiping God, he worships himself and creation. Although they knew there is a Creator, they suppressed this truth and worshiped himself and creation. Therefore, they have no excuse on Judgment Day (Rom 1:18-23).

How does man worship himself? All throughout human history, man's desire is to be independent of God, with no accountability, and to get rid of God. As early as the tower of Babylon, man wanted to be God (Gen 11:4). In Psalm 14:1, King David declared, *"The fool says in his heart, 'there is no God.'"* Not only does man deny God's existence. Today, a majority of people believe that they can be like God and control nature, just as Jesus silenced the winds the waves. Think of this: the goal of advocates of "climate change" is zero carbon emissions. In 2013, a climate scientist wrote in [Forbes magazine](#) that even if this zero emissions is achieved—however impossible—the temperature of the earth will be reduced by... *0.25 deg F by 2100!* And every year, beginning in the 1960s, there doomsday predictions are made by liberal climate change "experts." Therefore, all this talk about getting rid of fossil fuels and replacing them with solar panels and windmills because of climate change are insane pipe dreams by atheists and other unbelievers.

These pagans also assign equal values to both humanity and non-human creation. This is also worshiping creation rather than the Creator. Man's rightful place in God's creation is his dominion over creation and his uniqueness as God's image-bearer. Therefore, if there is an apparent conflict between the welfare of humanity and of the environment, humanity takes precedence over the environment. So, logging should be more important than the spotted owl; dams and fishing over the spawning of salmon and steelhead; and farms over state water control. Whatever man does, God is able to find ways of preserving his creation. As he has promised, seasons will come and go and the earth will continue as it has for ages until Jesus returns from heaven on Judgment Day.

Having said that, man's dominion over creation does not mean selfish, irresponsible abuse of creation, and is to be tempered with wise and responsible stewardship. Preserving the beauty of God's nature must be balanced with man's use of nature for his resources.

### "Male and Female He Created Them"

The second mandate from God in creation is, "*male and female he created them.*" In our world today, this fact is also denied by most unbelievers. Representative Ted Lieu is typical of these ignorant and rebellious pagans who would twist and deny the inerrant truths of Scripture.

As I have mentioned, homosexuality is an abomination before God, just like any other sexually immoral act (Exo 20:14; Lev 18:22; 20:13; Rom 1:26-27; 1 Cor 6:9-10). In 2017, our Supreme Court even legalized same-sex marriage in all states. Again, the Bible condemns this action, because marriage should be between a man and a woman (Gen 1:27; 2:24), which Jesus himself affirms (Matt 19:4). Think of this: same-sex union is a union of death. How would two men or two women produce children to fill the earth? Only by all kinds of scientific hocus-pocus because, as Paul says, same-sex relationships are "*contrary to nature*" (Rom 1:26). Our culture has brainwashed many into believing that men can get pregnant. In promoting a gender-less society, pagan politicians have even called women and mothers "birthing people," "people" who give birth! A Supreme Court justice even refused to define what a "woman" is.

I once heard a pastor preach on the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Although he affirmed that homosexuality is a heinous sin, he said that this judgment is a weak argument against it. He did not say why, but I suspect that he succumbed to the prevailing opinion among liberals in many churches that the sin of Sodom was not homosexuality. Rather, they were destroyed by God because they did not welcome the angels and show hospitality to them. However, Peter and Jude were clear about Sodom's heinous sexual sins. In 2 Peter 2:7, we read that God "*rescued righteous Lot, [who was] greatly distressed by the **sensual conduct** of the wicked.*" And Jude 7 says, "*just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in **sexual immorality** and pursued **unnatural desire**, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.*"

It is terrifying to contemplate on the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sexual abominations. Would this destruction fall upon our nation because of our abominations? We can only pray, "God be merciful to us, sinners."

## "Be Fruitful and Multiply and Fill the Earth"

The third and last cultural mandate given to man in creation is, *"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth."* Against this divine mandate, our culture has gone down to the abyss. What used to be called "family planning" has turned into "pro-choice" abortion on demand. What is truly despicable about this is that not only can unborn babies in the womb be aborted until the day of birth, but babies who have been born can still be murdered after birth. Did you know that Planned Parenthood was founded by a racist woman who wanted to control the black population? It is truly a horrible racist organization.

God repeated this mandate to Noah (Gen 9:1) and promised Abraham a multitude of descendants that would include many nations (Gen 15:5; 17:6; 22:17). Children are a blessing from God (Psa 127:3; 128:3-4). All forms of abortion are murder. Thus, birth control, especially abortion, must never be used for the purpose of convenience, career advancement, sexual immorality, or any other selfish or immoral end.

The cultural mandate is related to God's design for man to fill the whole earth with worshipers and so make the whole earth his glorious Temple, as the Psalms repeatedly proclaim in hope (Psa 66:1-4; 98:4; 100:1). After the Fall, this mandate turned into a blight for man. Genesis 6:1, 5 says that the earth was full of wickedness in Noah's days because of the increase in population, *"When man began to multiply on the face of the land ... the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth."* Because of man's sinful nature, ungodliness, crime, immorality, and environmental pollution increase with population. God did not desire that the earth will be full of wicked people, but of godly offspring (Mal 2:15).

However, Paul also condemns those who marry and have children but couldn't and wouldn't provide for their families, *"But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever"* (1 Tim 5:8). Spiritual responsibility is also commanded, and it is a great sin when parents bear children they cannot raise in the instruction and discipline of God.

**B**eloved brothers and sisters in Christ, as God's image-bearers, we are called to be righteous and holy and to have true knowledge of and communion with God. As Christians, we are being transformed all our lives into the image of the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, until we attain the glory of heaven (Rom 8:29; 1 Cor 15:49; 2 Cor 3:18). He himself is the image of the invisible God (2 Cor 4:4; Col 1:15).

As Christ has dominion over all the earth, God gave man dominion over all creation. But because of sin, God's mandate to man to multiply and fill the earth with true worshipers of God was hindered. Therefore, believers are now commanded by God to preach the gospel to all nations so that there will be true worshipers in all nations (Matt 28:18-20). And as believers bear children and train them in true righteousness, holiness and knowledge of God, all the nations will one day worship and praise God and have perfect communion with him in heaven forever.