

The Human: Idol-Maker

The gods We Imagine—part 2

October 4, 2026

DAY 1: IS MAN THE MEASURE OF ALL THINGS???

1. We continue our new series entitled, “**The gods We Imagine**”
2. We live in a universe that is ordered by God, including a moral order, “the laws of nature and nature’s God.” The moral law and the laws of nature—how life and human beings are to live—is fixed. These laws are immutable. These laws are reflections of absolute truth.
3. But secularists reject absolute truth as a “social construct,” not realizing that relative truth is a social construct. We can know real truth in only one of two ways: revelation or speculation. Secularists rely on speculation. We rely on the bible as the voice of absolute, revealed truth.
4. The question in this series is this: Which record, the biblical record or modern philosophies best reflects reality—the real world?
5. **What is a human being?** For decades the secular world has pitched four big picture narratives of what makes a human being.
 - a. **Darwinian** thinking: man is simply the top of the evolutionary line.
 - b. **Marxist** thinking: man is most fundamentally identified in economic terms. Either a person is an oppressor or a victim of oppression.
 - c. **Postmodernism**: Because there is no God, everything you see is caused by a great accident. The big bang theory was representative of this thinking. Postmodernism takes this even further. Man is merely a collection of cells and chemical reactions. There is nothing of value or meaning to a person. We are no different in value than animals or plants.
 - d. **Feelings**: We are ultimately self-defined—by our feelings, desires, and especially our sexual desires.
6. How would you answer the question: What is mankind?

7. The bible answers this question in four narratives.
 - a. **Creation**
 - b. **Fall**
 - c. **Salvation**
 - d. **Transformation** and **Redemption**.
8. That’s what we’ll look at this week!

DAY 2: The Creator creates the crown of His creation

1. God is the measure of all things, not man.

*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.**”*

*²⁷ So **God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.***

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

2. Mankind has inherent value and dignity. Why?

a. We are created by God and

b. We are made in the image of God.

c. We are the crown of creation.

3. Human beings are purposeful, personal, relational, volitional, emotional and moral creatures.

4. God treasures people and relates to them in the most personal of ways.

Psalms 139:1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. ² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. ⁵ You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. the night will shine like the day,

¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, ^e God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you.

5. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 3: Mankind's dark side

1. While man's dignity is rooted in the creation story (and more), man's depravity is rooted in the story of the Fall.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² *The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "* ⁴ *"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

⁶ *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

⁸ *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"*

¹² *The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

2. A monumental, tragic, and evil decision was made by Adam and Eve. Man would be the measure of all things, not God. Man would be the determiner of right and wrong. Every human evil perpetrated by mankind finds its awful roots right here.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately corrupt. Who can understand it?

Isaiah 53:6 All we, like sheep, have gone astray. We have turned, each of us, to our own way. And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

3. We are a mix of dignity and depravity! That is the best way to understand ourselves.

Romans 7:18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. ¹⁸ For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

4. All of us will face ultimate judgment for our lives.

Hebrews 9:27 For just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that to face judgment.

5. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 4: Sacrifice and Substitution

1. The inherent value of man to God is most clearly seen at the cross of Christ!

2. Jot down your thoughts under each of the verses, below:

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not because of deeds done by us, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal by His Spirit.

1 Peter 3:15 For Christ also died for sin, once for all, the Righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 5:8 For God demonstrated His own love for us in this, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

3. What struck you about salvation?

4. What strikes you about the love of God for you?

5. How do think God sees you?

DAY 5: Transformation

1. We are not “just” saved from hell.
2. We are adopted into God’s family we who were once rebels now get to sit at His banquet table and enjoy the company and love of our heavenly father!

Galatians 4:26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ,

We are given the most exalted status any human can enjoy!

3. In the verses below, jot down what strikes you about God’s work to make us like Christ.

Colossians 1:28-29 Him we proclaim, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this end I toil, striving with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what God’s will is—what is good, acceptable and perfect will of God.

4. C.S. Lewis famously remarked that God is in the business of making His people into “little Christs.”

5. How have you seen God working this wonder of grace in your life?