

Series: Imago Dei

Sermon: Image Bearing and Dignity

Scripture: Psalm 8:1-9 (ESV)

Teacher: Caleb Click

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Psalm 8:1-9 (ESV)

¹ O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

² Out of the mouth of babies and infants,

*you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.*

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

⁴ *what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?*

⁵ Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,

⁷ *all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,*

⁸ *the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

⁹ O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

1. The glory of God in the heavens (vs. 1-4)

2. The glory of God in humanity (vs. 5-9)

Hebrews 2:5-9 (ESV)

5 For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.

6 It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?"

7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor,

8 putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

"[W]e are not to consider that men merit of themselves but to look upon the image of God in all men, to which we owe all honor and love...Therefore, whatever man you meet who needs your aid, you have no reason to refuse to help him. Say, 'He is a stranger'; but the Lord has given him a mark that ought to be familiar to you, by virtue of the fact that he forbids you to despise your own flesh [Is. 58:7]. Say, 'He is contemptible and worthless'; but the Lord shows him to be one to whom he has deigned to give the beauty of his image ... Say that he does not deserve even your least effort for his sake; but the image of God, which recommends him to you, is worthy of your giving yourself and all your possessions." If someone hates you, if they have cursed and abused you, if they deserve nothing good from you, "not even this is just reason why you should cease to embrace him in love and to perform the duties of love on his behalf [Matt. 6:14; 18:35; Luke 17:3]." Instead, we must "remember not to consider men's evil intention but to look upon the image of God in them, which cancels and effaces their transgressions, and with its beauty and dignity allures us to love and embrace them." (John Calvin, Institutes, 3.7.6)