

**GA:** Most of us will never drive by a house & say, *Man, that is really a great foundation:*

- We typically admire the visible – everything above it.
- What is essential is foundational.

Today's words are some of the most important in Θ's Word. Absolutely foundational for a Xian understanding of human nature, the dignity & value of people & persons, & all of Xian ethics.

**SI:** Our text today is foundational to how I treat:

- **I**nfants (in the womb/out), children, teens, elderly, sick, dying, mentally challenged.

Foundational to forming my view about what I think about:

- **A**bstortion, end of life, immigration, mass shootings, cloning, human rights/trafficking, capital punishment, stem cell research, race, prejudice, poverty, homelessness, fatherlessness, gender, human sexuality, pornography, littering, & pollution.

Ideas contrary to Θ's view of life that are constantly crammed down our throats (this text informs & forms my view about):

- **S**ocial justice, DEI (diversity, equity & inclusion), wokeness, CRT, Intersectionality, gender, inclusive language.

Satan attacks all life. **Jn 10:10** *A thief comes only to steal, kill & destroy. I have come so that they may have life & have it in abundance.*

**ORT:** Basis for all this? David asked the same. **Ps 8:3-4** *When I observe Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon & the stars, which you set in place, what is a human being that you remember him?*

**CIT:** **Gen 1-2** (the story of Creation) tell us Who created us, how we were created, & why we were created.

**CIS:** Life is precious because you are the creation of Θ.

**PNP:** 2 foundational facts about man's creation.

- *good* up until **v25** – still creation is somehow incomplete.
- After man's creation (6<sup>th</sup> day) – **v31** it was *very good indeed*.

**Life is** precious because you are created in the image of Θ.

**Gen 1:26** Then Θ said, "Let Us *make* man in Our image, according to Our *likeness*. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, & the creatures that crawl on the earth.

- *image* & *likeness* are synonyms – concrete reflection of Θ.
- Based on the deliberate counsel/forethought of Θ.
  - Θ's Omniscience is not accidental or unplanned.
  - Θ's Omnipotence is not fatigued or powerless.

**Life is** precious because your creation was direct & special. Who are we?

- 1) Creatures created by Θ.
- 2) Created as persons (influenced by Θ & responsible to Him).
- 3) Created w/a complex constitution – body, soul, spirit.
- 4) Created like Θ in some way.
- 5) Created for companionship & community.
- 6) Created for dominion.

**Gen 1:27** So Θ *created* man in His own *image*; He *created* him in the *image* of Θ; He *created* them male & female.

- Previous was *and* Θ *said* – here He directly created.
- *Made* & *create* basis of human dignity.

**Definition** – *the image of Θ in man is* that which gives human beings the capacity for a uniquely personal relationship w/Θ. *The image of Θ encompasses* man's humanity as such & *involves* the whole person — body, mind, emotions, will, spirit — & man's humanity cannot be reduced to only one of these aspects. *The image of Θ is not* a human achievement, but a gift conferred on all humans by Θ's creative act. The *purpose* of man's creation as the image of Θ *is that man might enjoy a personal relationship* w/the Creator, both in time & eternity.

- *Image* 3x (reason, will, moral, emotion, create, relationships).
- *Image of* Θ – capacity of humans to have a relationship w/Θ.
- Dignity, value, & purpose (not lost w/the Fall).

**1 Cor 11:7** *man should not cover his head, because he is the image & glory of* Θ.

- No evolutionary process. No sub-, non-, or pre-humans **2:7**

**T**hat is not very scientific. **S**cience is ever-leaning what it does not know—Θ's Word is ever-declaring established truth!

- Special creation from inorganic material; not previous living.

**Gen 2:7** Then the LORD Θ *formed* the man out of the dust from the ground & breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, & the man became a living being.

- *Dust of ground* cannot be allegorical – man does not return to a previous form – **3:19** returns to *dust*.

**Gen 9:6** *Whoever sheds human blood, by humans his blood will be shed, for Θ made humans in His image.*

**Js 3:9-10** *W/the tongue we bless our Lord & Father, & w/it we curse people who are made in Θ's likeness. Blessing & cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers & sisters, these things should not be this way.*

**CIS:** Life is precious because it is from Θ.

**CEP:** Crappy foundation story

**H**ow much does Θ value your life? He gave His Son's life for yours. **2**

**Cor 5:21** *He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of Θ.*

*Remade into Perfect Image of Θ* **Ro 8:29** *For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.*

**1 Cor 15:49** *& just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the Man of heaven.*

**2 Cor 3:18** *We all, w/unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord & are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the S.*

**Col 3:10** *& have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator.*

**GA:** How much does Θ value your life?

He gave His Son's life for yours.

**2 Cor 5:21** *He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of Θ.*

*Perfect Image of Θ* **Heb 1:3** *The Son is the radiance of Θ's glory & the exact expression of His nature.*

**Col 1:15** *He is the image of the invisible Θ, the firstborn over all creation.*