

GENESIS

FROM THE DUST

SESSION 10

Review Genesis 2:4-15

PSALM 42:1

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul [nephesb] for you, O God.

† Last week we left off discussing how God created man to be both soul and body—the Hebrew word is NEPHESH...

① The date was May 28, 2016. The headline read: *17-year-old male shot dead by authorities after attempts made to kill a 3-year-old.* Such a could be a headline in any newspaper from any city across the country. But there are a couple of surprises in this story. The first is that the 17-year-old male is actually a _____ (gorilla) the three year old a _____ (human). The second surprise is that many people across the nation condemned this shooting despite the fact that child's life was endangered. How does an understanding of how God created man and animals help us address this issue rightly? And if we, as a society, can't find moral consensus on the value of human life, even when faced with such a seemingly black and white scenario, then what implications does this have for how our society regards the most vulnerable persons, the elderly and the unborn?

➤ *Perhaps we need a good understanding of what we believe defines a "PERSON." And there are a lot of ideas out there...*

Option 1:

Some argue that a "person" is any entity that has value, can be in an interactive relationship, and who is loved. So, if I love my pet gorilla and can interact with my pet gorilla in some type of relationship, then this gorilla can seem more a person to me than someone I don't know or never interact with. Such thinking informs the so called "Interpersonal Theories of Personhood," of which there are many. What are the dangers in such thinking?

Option 2:

"Persons" are those who have certain characteristics. This is the attitude of most utilitarian philosophers and the attitude of secular Americans. The chief characteristic is most often cited is "thinking" (or sentience). Ironically, the ones who advocate for this the most are often those who consider themselves to be among the most intelligent, which seems a bit self-serving. There are some obvious problems with defining personhood this way. What are some?

Option 3:

All human beings are "persons." Why? Because all human beings have been created in the image of God no matter their state of development and no matter any handicap or disability. This is what separates a 3-year-old boy, who bears the image of God, from a 17-year-old gorilla, who does not!

Read Genesis 2:5-9 & 15-17

- 2 Describe what the earth was like before God created Adam. What did God intend for Adam and Eve to spend their time doing?
- 3 Who exactly is God talking to in verses 16 and 17 and what are the implications for family life afterwards?

Read Genesis 2:18-25

- 4 Is God's statement in verse 18, "it is not good for man to be alone" a contradiction to what was said of creation in chapter 1 verse 30?
- 5 The fact that Genesis describes Eve as being made from the rib of Adam can sound like a fairytale. It definitely isn't something that happens every day, yet science can grow human body parts like skin and cartilage and bone in laboratory settings. As fantastic as it sounds, consider how this unique creation of Eve—as the completion of mankind and "helper" explains the relationship that God intended for man and woman.
- 6 Based on Genesis 2, what is a biblical definition of marriage? How does this marriage come about? How is the marriage confirmed and made official (e.g. is there a marriage ceremony or formal saying of vows prescribed by scripture)?
- 7 How do Jesus' words in Matthew 19:4-6 show that marriage is no casual union or mere tradition?