

DISTINCT FEATURES OF MAN — GENESIS 1:26-31

1. Man is Made in the Image of God (Ge.1:26-27)

The image of God is an eternal spirit capable of communion and fellowship with his Creator

“²⁶Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” ²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him” (Ge.1:26-27)

1. Image is not physical but spiritual and transcendent (Jn.4:24) “God is Spirit... must worship in spirit and truth” (Jn.4:24)
 - Is man's dignity above the animals due to a slight physiological difference? No. We are spiritual as God is.
2. God put eternity in our hearts (Ec.3:11) “...He has put eternity in their hearts...” (Ec.3:11)
3. Image and likeness encompasses man possessing personhood as does God. Personhood refers to having the ability to reason, feel emotion, be creative, and make choices (volition). These qualities are immaterial.
4. Language is for relationships among creation and especially God (Ja.3:9)
“With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.” (Ja.3:9)
5. Moral being with a conscience, not guided by mere instinct.



2. Man is the Ruler of the Earth (Ge.1:26, 28)

“²⁶let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth” ... ²⁸have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Ge.1:26, 28)

Man's Responsibility:

- A. Cultivate the Plants of the Ground (Ge.2:15) God “put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it” (Ge.2:15)
 - Man is to subdue the created order to put God's glorious power on display.
- B. Name the Land Animals (Ge.2:19)

God “brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name” (Ge.2:19)

3. Man is to Manifest the Image of God in Pro-Creation (Ge.1:28; 2:18)

Procreation was man's mandate, because in so doing man multiplies the image of God.

“Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth” (Ge.1:28)

“And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” (Ge.2:18)

4. Man is the Recipient of Enjoyment (Ge.1:28-31)

“²⁸Then God blessed them... ²⁹And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. ³¹Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” (Ge.1:28-30)