**‘Man’s Rule and Reign’**

***26Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*** Genesis 1:26-28

It’s been stated that “God created us in His image and according to His likeness so we would rule the earth **as He would rule it.**” We’d be doing it in His stead.[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1) We’d be doing this as God would do it.

But what part of creation were we to rule? That seems to be a ridiculous question to ask, considering the answer is in the Bible passage at the top of this page. However, I ask the question because man has gotten the answer to this one question totally wrong.

According to God, as we see in this passage, our rule included the “fish of the sea,” “the birds of the sky,” “the cattle (verse 26) and every living thing that moves on the earth (verse 28),” and “all the earth.” **It did NOT include our ruling over and subduing fellow human beings!** And why not? Why wouldn’t the list include ruling over and subduing fellow human beings? The answer is this: **EVERY** human being, regardless of race and gender, was equally created in the image and according to the likeness of God to equally represent, or re-present,[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn2) Him in the earth.

This is the way God intended it to be. We, His re-presentatives, were to be doing His will the way He intended throughout the earth. We were to be fellow image-bearers working with fellow image-bearers.

Unfortunately, the entirety of human history has been one of men pushing and shoving one another around. Nations and kingdoms have risen up against each other time and time again. The dominant have subordinated or killed the weak. People have enslaved, killed, and attempted to annihilate those from themselves. Man’s inhumanity against man has been on display for millennia and it is sickening.

Since we know how God created mankind AND what mankind has become we must ask ‘Why?’ “Why is the world the way it is? Why do we treat one another so badly?”

I know that we haven’t gotten to Genesis 3 and we will, but if we’re pondering how God created us and what we were given to do; we may as well recognize that God’s ‘very good’ creation became corrupt and it’s not God’s fault! The fault belongs entirely with man because we rebelled against our Creator. We sinned!

We’ll get into this in much more detail later, but the blame for the horrible condition the earth is in lies entirely with man. And man is completely incapable of correcting what he has done. The Good News is this: God’s IS ABLE to undo what we’ve done, **and He has already done it!** God’s remedy is not bigger government or self-help books or even religion. **God’s answer is Jesus!**

***16For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”***

I thought you should know.

Kathleen

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1) [http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/09/man-in-the-image…-likeness-of-god/](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/09/man-in-the-image-and-likeness-of-god/)

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref2) I prefer to make the word represent into the hyphenated word, re-present. Yes, we represent God wherever we are and in whatever we do, but as God’s image bearers we are actually to ‘present’ God to the rest of creation in all that we do. So, we re-present God to His creation over and over again as we subdue the earth and rule over its creatures. It is an amazing thought.