

DIGNIFIED DUST

June 14th, 2026

Foundations // Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7

Message Context

This week's passage focuses on the creation of mankind and the foundation of human dignity. Genesis 1 shows that men and women were made in the image of God, while Genesis 2 shows God personally forming man from the dust and breathing into him the breath of life. The sermon emphasized that we are dust, but not just dust — we are “dignified dust,” formed by God, filled with His breath, made in His image, and given purpose by Him. Though sin has marred God's image in us, it has not erased it, and Jesus, the perfect image of God, came to redeem and restore broken image-bearers.

CONNECT – Announcements (page 2) & Building Relationships

1. Think of a time when you saw something ordinary become valuable because of who made it, gave it, or used it. What gave that object its value?
2. The sermon began by comparing the raw material value of the human body with the priceless value of a person we love. Why do we instinctively know that human life is worth more than chemicals, dust, or dollars?

REFLECT - Out of the Word and Into Our Lives

3. Read Genesis 1:26-31 and Genesis 2:7. What stands out to you most from these passages?
4. The sermon said, “We are dust, but we are not just dust.” How does Genesis 2:7 help us hold together both humility and dignity?
5. Genesis 2:7 shows God forming man from the dust and breathing into him the breath of life. What does this reveal about God's nearness, care, and personal involvement in creating mankind?
6. Genesis 1 says mankind was made in God's image and likeness. What does it mean for human beings to reflect God? Where do you see that image reflected in rationality, morality, relationships, creativity, work, or worship?
7. The sermon compared the image of God after the fall to a coin covered in mud. The image is still there, but it has been distorted and needs to be cleansed. How does that illustration help you understand both human dignity and human sinfulness?
8. Why is it important to remember that the image of God was marred by sin but not removed? How should that shape the way we view unbelievers, enemies, difficult people, and people who are very different from us?
9. The sermon applied the image of God to issues like abortion, euthanasia, racism, sexism, age, singleness, marriage, work, and productivity. Where do you see the image of God being rejected in these areas? How should the Christian think through these issues?

10. Pastor Jeremy said, “Human dignity is not achieved. It is received.” Where are you tempted to measure your worth by achievement, relationship status, usefulness, appearance, performance, or productivity?
11. Genesis 1:28 says mankind was made to rule over the earth and its creatures. How is biblical dominion different from selfish exploitation? What does it look like to steward God’s creation, your work, your home, your resources, and your responsibilities under God’s authority?
12. God gave food and provision to mankind as a gift. How should Genesis 1:29-30 shape our gratitude, generosity, and worship? Where do you need to become more thankful for what God has entrusted to you?
13. The sermon ended by pointing to Jesus as the Son of God who “became dust” by taking on human flesh. How does the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus show the value God places on broken image-bearers?

☪ **PROTECT – Care for one another (divided, gender-specific groups)**

14. Where are you most tempted to forget your God-given dignity? Is it in shame over sin, comparison with others, insecurity, aging, singleness, parenting, work, failure, or something else?
15. Who is someone in your life you struggle to see as an image-bearer of God? What would it look like to treat that person with dignity this week without excusing sin or avoiding truth?
16. The sermon reminded us that “people are God’s mission, and God’s mission is our mission.” Who is one image-bearer God has placed in your life that you need to pray for, pursue, invite, or share the gospel with?

Announcements

Men of Vision Breakfast – June 20th @ 8:00 am

Emerald Crossing Summer Bible Camp: July 12th – 16th – For Ages 2 and up! nvf.life/kidscamp

Has the Lord gifted you musically? Vocally or with instruments? Let us know!

Resources for Going Deeper

- **Read Genesis 1-3** – I encourage you to re-read it as we walk through these opening chapters.
- **Read Psalm 8** and reflect on the dignity and responsibility God gives mankind.
- **Read Psalm 139:13-16** and consider how God’s forming work begins even in the womb.
- **Read the Baptist Faith & Message 2000 Article III: Man** - <https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000/#iii>