



REFLECTION GUIDE

January 2018 Sermon Series



This week, Derek continued our new series on Genesis.

READ

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:25

REFLECT

1. Derek highlighted some of the main messages in today's text. Spend some time thinking about what the following statements mean to you: "Humans are communal," and "Humans are embodied creatures."
2. Derek quoted Nic Waltersforff, saying, "To be human is to be an icon of God. Image bearing is not something we can lose. But until death, the worth of every image bearer abides." What significance does this have in your life?
3. Brene Brown defines shame as the "intensely painful feeling or experience of believing that we are flawed and therefore unworthy of love and belonging." How have you experienced shame? What are you hiding away in the manner of Adam and Eve?
4. Derek finished the sermon by saying "In Christ, shame has been swallowed up in glory. God has restored us to our truest selves - we bear His image, not simply as creations, but as children of God - the new humanity." What aspects of your life need transformation or renewal along these lines. Where, either personally, in your family, your workplace, your neighborhood, our city, or our country, are you encountering shame? How can God restore those places?

PRAY

- + Confess to God how often we have corrupted our core relationships.
- + Thank God for providing hope in new beginnings.
- + Pray for renewal in our Church, our Community, and our City.

PRACTICE

- + Derek talked about several of the forms that corrupt our understanding as Image-bearers and wreak havoc on our core relationships: shame, self-hatred, and self-importance. In your groups share a time where you felt one of these repercussions and how the Gospel should speak to that circumstance.
- + Derek challenged us to commit to a higher honesty, following the example of Christ. This week, when you experience shame, reach out to someone you trust and tell them your story. Put this higher honesty into practice in the hope that eventually it becomes a practice for you.