

## The 5 Blessings of Genesis 1:26-28 – What Are They?

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let 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." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His [own] image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> Then **God blessed them**, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." <sup>29</sup> And 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. (Gen 1:26-29)

### I. What Are They? Authorizations, Blessings, Commands, Directions, or Enablements?

#### A. Authorizations? (The \_\_\_\_\_ to Do These)

All that we are allowed to do is determined by God. What is moral vs immoral, our domain vs God's domain, our realm vs. the realm of our neighbor, etc. is involved. God gave us permission to carry out these five blessings.

#### B. Blessings? (The \_\_\_\_\_ to Do These)

"Then God blessed them..."

Blessing = something good, to be desired

Compared to Beatitudes

#### C. Commands? (The \_\_\_\_\_ to Do These)

Each of the five is an imperative – a command. These are the first 5 commands in all the Bible to human beings.

#### D. Directions? (The \_\_\_\_\_ Which Will Be Taken)

God set in motion a path which all of mankind will take, whether we cooperate with God or not. Though some of these mankind seeks to eliminate, each is a course that is determined by the Creator. God set each of these laws in motion that will be in some way kept by all of mankind in spite of man's knowledge or efforts to change.

Consider God's similar commands to the creatures of the sea and birds of the air. These commands do not require an active mental assent or moral involvement, yet the creatures fulfill God's design:

<sup>20</sup> Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." <sup>21</sup> So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that [it] was good. <sup>22</sup> And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." (Gen 1:20-22)

#### E. Enablements? (The \_\_\_\_\_ to Do These)

The blessings were also enablements: Each involves the ability and capacity and desire to do the things commanded.

Consider Abraham being given the ability to bear children after his physical ability to do so ceased,

<sup>18</sup> who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup> And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, (Rom 4:18-20)

#### APPLICATION:

- God Is the \_\_\_\_\_ : We are to understand God's design and desire, and work by and with His plan.
- God Is the \_\_\_\_\_ : We must interpret life and culture by God's revelation, not by man's practice or culture's direction.
- God Is the \_\_\_\_\_ : We can see God's creative work still in force today, though marred and actively rejected by man.