

# THE MANDATES OF CREATION

Genesis 1:28-31

## INTRODUCTION

- Misanthropy is the hatred of mankind and is rampant in our day
- Secular ideologies and practices are manifestations of the view that human life has no value:
  - ✓ Abortion
  - ✓ Euthanasia
  - ✓ The contraceptive pill
  - ✓ IVF
  - ✓ Transgenderism
  - ✓ mRNA vaccines
  - ✓ Environmentalism
  - ✓ Climate catastrophism
  - ✓ Overpopulation myths
- Divine wisdom declares: “all they that hate me love death” (Proverbs 8:36)
- Those who hate God hate life; those who love God love life
- As we consider the creation week and the creation of man on the sixth day, we now come to consider the role that God gave to man within his creation
- God makes known his intentions for mankind by giving him mandates
- The word mandate has the meaning of an “authoritative command”, as well as “commission” and “permission” to do something
- The mandates God gave to Adam are universal, perpetual and comprehensive
- These mandates form the foundation for human activity on earth under the oversight of God
- God’s first communication with man was in the form of a command

- Man was not created to be autonomous, independent and self-directed
- Man is made to be dependent upon God and directed by God
- Adam in his perfect state was required to live by God's commands
- How much more must we, *after the fall*, in our depraved state, live by God's commands
- Yet man has chosen to rebel against God's commandments, not obey
- As believers we must be led by God's commandments; our flesh continually leads us away from the right path
- If Adam before the fall needed God's commands, how much more do we, after the fall, with our remaining sin, need God's commands to live by
- "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jeremiah 10:23)
- With the creation of the first man, Adam, who was the head over all the earthly creation, he became a sort of king over all the world, and was granted authority over the earth by God (Psalm 8:4-9)
- Today we will consider three mandates that God gave to Adam on the day he created him

## **I. THE PROCREATION MANDATE (28)**

- A. God mandated man and woman to be fruitful and multiply
  1. This is not a mere command to procreate, but a *blessing* upon the husband and wife and their posterity
  2. If the earth is to be filled, it necessitates human reproduction
  3. Marital intimacy and pleasure was designed by God and commanded by God
  4. When it comes to a topic like this, we should be careful it is not mishandled

- a. Some avoid it altogether, deeming it as inappropriate or uncomfortable to deal with
  - b. Others treat it lightly or with jest
  - c. Both of these are unscriptural
5. The Bible deals with human sexuality plainly and in a matter-of-fact manner, showing that it is ordained of God for the benefit of man
6. Yet God wisely uses language in Scripture that is delicate to describe human sexuality so that it can be read by children without tainting their innocence
7. Even when describing some of the most abhorrent and deprave sexual behaviours like sodomy and bestiality, the language remains tasteful and appropriate to even be read in a meeting like this
8. God created humans with these physical desires and functions, and then he outlined how they are to be exercised – positively through the ordinance of marriage, and negatively, through the many prohibitions against sexual immorality
9. Within the marriage covenant, physical intimacy is:
- a. Commanded by God
  - b. Pleasing to God (Hebrews 13:4)
  - c. For the mutual pleasure of the husband and wife (See Song of Solomon)
  - d. Not to be avoided or withheld (1 Corinthians 7:3-5)
- B. The duty and blessing of bearing children
1. It is God's will that men and women marry and bear children
  2. Any deviation from this is rebellion against the will of God for mankind

3. Couples who intentionally choose to not have children for selfish purposes deny themselves immense blessing and show themselves to reject God's will for their marriage (Psalm 127:3-5)
4. Note that there are many considerations such as health, maturity, domestic circumstances, etc, that ought to be factored into a responsible procreative stewardship
5. But as a general principle, children ought to be viewed as a blessing, and married couples, especially Christians ought to approach their divine calling to be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth with this mindset

C. God created this world to be filled with people

1. The "Georgia Guidestones", which are a manifesto of the New World Order, state their aim is to "Maintain humanity under 500,000,000 in perpetual balance with nature."
2. The world's entire population could easily fit within the continent of Australia, with each person occupying a quarter acre
3. The word translated as replenish (*male*) simply means "to fill" not "refill" and provides no support for the "Gap Theory"
4. "Of the more than 300 times it is used, it is translated by "replenish" only 7 times, whereas it is translated "fill," "fulfill" and "be full" 246 times

## II. THE DOMINION MANDATE (28)

A. God blessed man to subdue and have dominion over the whole earth

1. "Subdue" (*kabash*) means to tread down, to conquer, subjugate
2. "Dominion" (*radah*) means to subjugate, have dominion, prevail against, reign, rule over, take
3. Specifically, this encompasses all sea life, bird life and land animal life
4. This puts our relationship with the earth in proper perspective

- a. Earth is not to be worshipped as the pagans do
  - b. Earth was made for man's benefit and for man to dominate
  - c. God "giveth us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17)
5. Man is to be a caretaker and steward over God's creation, to manage it, not to abuse it
  6. The greatest abusers of the planet are atheists, whose evolutionary doctrine of "survival of the fittest" encourages the cold and cruel abuse of the earth's resources
- B. God's wise forming of the earth and its resources encourages the endeavours of man in science, exploration, discovery, technology, engineering, etc.
1. *"If we look at the earth, as prepared for the occupancy of man, we find little that is made ready for use but boundless material which his own labour and skill can fit for it. The spontaneous fruits of the earth furnish a scanty and precarious subsistence, even to a few; but with skilful labour it is made to yield an abundant supply for the wants of every living thing." On its surface, many natural obstacles are to be overcome. Forests must be leveled, rivers bridged over, roads and canals constructed, mountains graded and tunneled and seas and oceans navigated. Its treasures of mineral wealth lie hidden beneath its surface; when discovered and brought to light they are valueless to man till his own labor subdues and fits them for his service. The various useful metals lie in the crude ore and must be passed through difficult and laborious processes before they can be applied to any valuable purpose. Iron, for example, the most necessary of all, how many protracted and delicate processes are required to separate it from impurities in the ore, to refine its texture, to convert it into steel before it can be wrought into the useful ax or knife, with the well-tempered edge."* (Thomas Jefferson Conant, 1868)
  2. *"It is authorization for all legitimate human enterprises and occupations. To 'subdue the earth' and to 'have dominion' over all its creatures requires research into the earth's systems and processes. This is what we call science. Once these systems and processes are understood, they can be controlled and used for human benefit and God's glory. This is technology"*

*(engineering, medicine, agriculture, etc.). Transmitting and communicating this information for optimum use is business and commerce. Teaching them to succeeding generations is education. ... Most honorable occupations can be included under this primeval commission, as long as they are carried out in the will of God.” (Henry Morris)*

- C. The Dominion Mandate is foundational in understanding God’s design for civil governments and the sphere and limits of their authority
1. Governments’ role is simply to facilitate humanity’s fulfilment of the Dominion Mandate
  2. This mandate implies that every people is endowed with certain individual freedoms and rights, such as the right to life, the right to work, the right to a family, the right to acquire possessions and property
  3. Since God has given us those rights, we need human governments to protect those rights and to facilitate our enjoyment of them
  4. Contrary to what many believe, government does not *give* us rights and freedoms, God does – government merely *protects*, *preserves*, and *promotes* our God-given rights and freedoms
  5. God has not ordained governments to provide services such as welfare, medical, education, etc.
  6. In many instances, government has usurped roles which God intended for the family or church
  7. “Government should do for people only what they cannot do better by themselves, and no more.” (Abraham Lincoln)
  8. The Scriptures support a *protectionist* role of government, not a *perfectionist* role
  9. Government is ordained by God to punish evil and reward good (1 Peter 2:14; Romans 13:3-4)
    - a. Good and evil are moral terms not defined by man, but God

- b. God's moral law, summarised in the Ten Commandments, is the foundation upon which governments should be established (Romans 13:8-10)

### III. THE DIETARY MANDATE (29-30)

- A. This mandate shows God's provision to fuel the fulfilment of the former two
  1. Procreation and the subduing of the earth require energy, and the "herbs" and "fruit" of the earth would provide that energy to sustain man in these roles
  2. The nature of this form of energy is inexhaustible, and perpetually available, as the plants reproduce themselves via the "seed" in them
- B. Prior the flood, both animals and humans were vegetarian
  1. After the flood, with the changed conditions on earth, some animals became carnivorous and man was commanded to eat flesh also (Genesis 9:2-3)
    - a. Though the Scripture is not clear on this, animals may have become carnivorous following the fall, and before the flood
    - b. In Christ's kingdom, the beasts will return to a vegetarian diet (Isaiah 11:7)
  2. Man may eat both plants and animal flesh
    - a. Those who claim that it is wrong to eat meat are promoting doctrines of devils (1 Timothy 4:1-5)
    - b. Those who claim that plants are unhealthy, such as in the "carnivore diet", are also going against the clear command of God here to eat plants and fruit
- C. God declared all things to be "very good" at the conclusion of the sixth day
  1. This is the seventh and final time in Genesis one that God declares His creation "good".

2. This refutes all notions of evolution that require a cruel struggle between species, and the presence of death in the creation – such a situation is not “very good”

## **CONCLUSION**

1. God not only made man in his image, but *blessed* man and gave him direction and purpose in life
2. Satan has continually sought to deviate man from God’s purpose into a course of self-gratification and ultimately death
3. It is the vital duty of every human being to seek God’s will for their life and then to obey it
4. Are you doing this?
5. God is the author of life, who gives us life and commands us to foster life in this world
6. God’s people ought to be promoters of life
7. We are in the midst of a culture of death
8. The greatest way we can promote life to a world of death is by preaching the Lord Jesus Christ, who came, “that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)