

Man Down, Man Down - Week 1

Introduction – Jim Burgen

October 31, 2021

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Genesis 1:27-28; Romans 1:16-25, 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

// Message Summary

This week's message from Pastor Jim Burgen is the first in a 5-week series titled, *Man Down, Man Up*. The goal of this series is to examine who we are, why we are here, and how we are to live our lives - especially for our men. We heard that, as creatures made in the image of God, our ultimate purpose is to reflect Him and His nature. As this series unfolds, we'll see God's purposes for our lives are rather countercultural: culture tells us to look first at ourselves and our wants, then to look out at others who agree with us, and then finally look up to God to get Him on board with our plans, but Christianity requires us to first look up to God and His interests, then look out to the world and it's needs, before finally looking to ourselves and what we have to offer. It begins with God - and not just God as our Savior, but God as our Lord as well.

// Biblical and Historical Context

Genesis 1:27 tells us, 'So God created man(kind) in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.' Humans were created uniquely, and for a unique purpose. Having created everything else, God finished His artistic work by creating one special being who could rule over everything on His behalf: the human. Humanity was made in the very image of God – we were created to reflect Him in a unique way. The Hebrew word for 'image' used in Genesis 1:26 is 'tselem' and at the time it was often used to describe small figurines made in order to represent an ancient human king. Humans, in the words of the author Moses (the likely author of Genesis), were miniature replicas of the great King, God Himself.

// Community Questions

1. This series is called, *Man Down, Man Up*. What is one of your favorite comeback stories or movies? Why do you like it so much?
2. Does anyone take after one of their parents in a particular way? Describe what you notice.

// Discussion Questions

1. As a group, read Romans 1:21-24. What seems to be interesting to you?
2. In your own words, describe the sequence of events Paul detailed in the passage above.
3. Jim stated, "God cannot and will not be reinvented." In what ways has society reinvented God?
4. If men (and women) allowed God to be not only Savior, but Lord, what impact would that have on marriages, families, communities and our nation?
5. In the story about the child asking their parent, "What does God do all day?", the parent responded,
"He fixes broken things."

Describe all the character traits of someone who spends their days fixing broken things.

// Challenge

Men, if you can make it work in your schedule, why not join Pastor Jim on Tuesday morning for a Men's Bible Study? 6:30-7:30am on November 2, 9, 16 and 23, at our Lafayette campus. Bring your Bible, a coffee, and your notebook.