God Creates People – Teaching Notes
(Genesis 1:26-31; 2:4-7; 9/16/18; Pas. Baines, Jr.)

**Introduction:** A key idea in today’s Sunday School material is that God created mankind to rule the Earth with a godly diet. Prayerfully, we will be challenged to obey God’s will regarding rulership, diet, and more.

**Body:**

Read Genesis 1:26-31

I. Plan for Humans. God talks about making mankind in His image. He makes mankind – male and female - in His image. God blessed them and charged them to be fruitful and to rule over the Earth. God talks about the diet of mankind and animals.

Applications –

- **Image bearers and rulers.** Notice in vs. 26 that God talks about making mankind in the image/likeness of God to rule over the Earth. First, there is room to debate a comprehensive explanation of being made in the image/likeness of God. However, we can quickly agree that mankind shares a connection with God that animals, plants, and the Earth itself does not. We have intelligence, emotion, will, and morality unlike the rest of creation. We have the assignment to rule over the Earth unlike the rest of creation. Given these facts, we should remember that too whom much is given much is required. We should live like we appreciate and are responsible for what God has invested in us. Second, mankind was given the assignment of ruling over the Earth. We rule as stewards/managers, not as owners. We should rule/manage the Earth in ways that we believe God would be pleased. Think about how pollution, recycling, and clean energy fit into this area of thought. Let’s work on living like those who carry God’s image/likeness with the duty to rule over the Earth.

- **Males and females.** Notice in vs. 27 that mankind was created as male and female in the image of God. It is wrong to behave as if women are less created in the image of God than men. God created both in His image. A failure to treat women as those created in the image of God is disrespectful to both women and to God who created them in His image. How we treat those created by God in His image is a theological statement about our regard for God and His will. Let’s work on treating both genders as created in the image of God. This should include respect, cooperation, and love.

- **Being fruitful.** Notice in vs. 28 that mankind was called to be fruitful. In the original, husbands and wives needed to bear children for the sake of survival and rulership. Today, there is a reasonable resistance to being too fruitful. In other words, there was a time when having 10 or 15 children may have been in order. However, having 10 or 15 children today, especially in an urban setting, seem unreasonable. This raises the question of, “How do you avoid having so many children?” For some, there is abstinence. For others there is pregnancy prevention, by way of birth control medicines and devices. And yet for others, there is birth prevention, by way of abortion. The first two seem much godlier than the last. In fact, the last seems to be sinful as simply a birth control method. Let’s strive to obey God’s will regarding being fruitful.
- **Godly diets.** Notice in vss. 29-30 that the original diet for mankind was fruits and vegetables – no meat. First, this was God’s will for those in our text. It should be noted that God allowed for clean meats after the flood. So be careful about being a vegetarian because the Bible says so. Second, even though vegetarianism may not be for everyone, and even though animal protein may have its place, we should strive to eat and drink a godly diet. It seems that a godly diet is high on fruits, vegetables, and water, while being low on added sugar, salt, and alcohol. *Let’s live like we are taking care of the temples of God known as our bodies.*

- **Very good.** Notice in vs. 31 that God declares what He made, including mankind, was “very good.” First, creation started off being “very good.” Through mankind’s sins, we have become out of whack and less than “very good.” The more we sin, the further we get from the state that God created us in. Second, as with God, there are times when we have to look at our work and declare it to be very good because no one else seems to be preparing to do so. Of course, you need to do something very well, to declare it to be very good. The point is, there are times when we have to pat our own selves on the back, instead of waiting for others. *Let’s work on doing things well, so we can be closer to how God made us.*

**Read Genesis 2:4-7**

**II. Life for the First Human.** This appears to be another account of the creation. There are no plants. There are streams watering the Earth. God formed man from the dust and breathed into him. The man became a living soul.

**Applications –**

- **A second account?** Notice in vss. 4-7 that some believe this to be a second creation story. And some believe it to be an elaboration on the first story. On one hand, both understandings urge us to live as if God is our creator and the One to whom we must give an account. On the other hand, it does seem to be more of a second account. Think about the synoptic gospel writers. This may be one of the many questions that we need to ask the Lord about, when we get to Heaven … smile. *Let’s live like we are created by God to bring glory to Him by obeying His will.*

**Conclusion:** Let’s work on obeying God’s will regarding rulership, diet, and more. God has much for those who obey His will.