

Sermon Notes – Genesis 1 & 2 – God Enters the Mud

Christmas is an artist entering into her own painting. Christmas is a photographer entering into his pictures. Christmas is an author writing himself into his own book.

Here is my question: *How does an artist get into the art?*

Christmas is about mud. God is a shaper of mud. A sculptor.

Read Genesis 1:1-2 – The earth was formless

The earth was...a pile of wet clay ready for God to put life into it.

Read Genesis 2:4-7 – God formed man from the Creation

The problem for an artist to enter His own art is He is more likely to destroy His art than to enter His art. The creation loses its shape and returns to just mud. The paint is smeared.

Read Genesis 2:15-17 – God Requires Three Things

1. Care for the creation. God tasks his creation to be an artist in his or her own right. Amazing.
2. Live Free. God doesn't want us to have to live by rules that stifle our creativity.
3. One boundary. To live free isn't to live without boundaries. Sin mars the art. Sin stains.

God doesn't abandon the creation. He continues to breathe life and grace into it.

Read Genesis 1:20-22 – God blesses the creatures

Read Genesis 1:26-28 – God blesses humanity

Read Genesis 2:2 – God blesses the Sabbath

Blessings reproduce. Blessings multiply. Blessings create fruit.

Blessings Reproduce Blessings, But Curses Reproduce Curses.

Adam and Eve crossed the one boundary. They loved creating. They loved being free. But they became convinced they couldn't be free unless they were able to stain.

So they stained. And worse, the stain reproduced.

The Question: *How does an artist get into the art?*

Answer: *God entered the universe as one cell and then reproduced.*

Jesus, the Son of God, the fullness of God Himself, appears in a backwater town, born to parents who don't even have enough clout to get a room in the inn to have a baby!

Jesus, the Son of God, begins as one cell, stuck to the womb of a child, not even married, completely unexpected.

Reproduction for Jesus wasn't physical. He didn't start a new race of people by taking a wife and having kids. But once that single cell of God was part of the fabric of the universe, it couldn't help but reproduce.

Christmas reverses the spread of the stain, not by cleaning it up, but by reproducing something wonderful in its place.

But it all remains a choice.

Now that God has entered into the creation, have you made a decision to allow God into your life? If you have made a decision to allow God into your life, have you opened yourself up to reproduce? To allow God's goodness to flow through you and into somebody else?

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Agree/Disagree: Put a checkmark by statement if you agree.

- Easter is more important than Christmas.
- Christmas has the power to change you.
- Christmas changed the nature of the universe forever.

1. Pastor Brian asks, “*How does an artist get into the art?*” Why is he asking that question?

Read Genesis 1:1-5; 2:4-7

2. How is chapter 1 different than chapter 2 as far as how God creates?

Read Genesis 2:15-17 – God Requires Three Things

3. The Bible says God requires that people become artists, live free, and stay clear of a few boundaries. Why do people feel compelled to cross God’s boundaries?

Read Genesis 1:20-22 – God blesses the creatures

Read Genesis 1:26-28 – God blesses humanity

Read Genesis 2:2 – God blesses the Sabbath

4. Does God continue to bless the world? If so, how does He do it? Do curses reproduce? If so, how?

5. Pastor Brian answered the question “*How does an artist get into the art?*” with *God entered the universe as one cell*. How does one cell entering the universe of billions and billions of living cells change the nature of the universe? How does that one God cell still reproduce today?

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