

## The Garden: Create and Cultivate Genesis 1

Humanity began in a garden full of Material and Meaning created by God. Being made in His image, we are called to Create and Cultivate a new Culture that glorifies Him. What are you creating?

**Intro – Duck Dynasty** – Amen. I’m not sure if you’re one of the **12million people** who watched the DD season premiere in August, but even if you’re not an avid fan, you’re definitely aware that **millions of people fervently love DD**

- I spent the last 6yrs in youth ministry, and many students would sing the praises of DD and (no joke) why they had to **skip youth** in order to watch the season finale. I always thought, “great, it’s **honey booboo with a beard** and a strange fascination for ducks” and “**why** do my students and millions of other people love the show?”
- Personally, I hadn’t watched a single clip of the show until I was prepping this talk, but over the span of just a few days, I learned to love these scraggly faced tea drinking millionaires – **why?**
  - It’s because **they’ve created something new** and fresh and different from normal expectations –and **they cultivated it** – they made it better and as it got better it became more attractive and it **formed a community of people who continue to create and cultivate** (autotune vids)

**The truth is...**

- We’re in a world where the community formed by a **duck call can be stronger** and more attractive than the community formed by the **knowledge of Jesus Christ**
  - Who’s been burned by the Church or by Christians? We all know our nation is growing more and more **sick of Christians** – **why?**
  - Andy Stanley summed it up well when he said **people expect Christians to be “judgmental, homophobic moralists who secretly relish the fact that everyone else is going to hell.”** – **why?**
  - ...Because many times **we’re not creating something new** and fresh and different from that expectation.

**The Point**

- This semester we’re talking about culture – We’re hitting issues of technology, social media, marriage, work, sex, missions, politics, etc. and so far we’ve laid a foundation focused on **Reacting** to culture with God’s Grace/Bible/Church and trusting His Word
  - This week and next week we’re finishing our foundation – as we take God’s Grace/Bible/Church into our Culture, we have a goal: **To Create and Cultivate**
  - To equip ourselves for this goal, we’re going to ask three simple questions: **Why do we create? What do we create?** And next week: **How do we create?**

**Why do we Create?**

- If we trust God’s Word, we know that we are created in His image – meaning, we **look and act like Him**
  - **Ex: Katherine’s disturbing head eating** like Hannah (pic)
- **Look** – we share some of **God’s attributes** – capacity for love, righteousness, gentleness, patience, anger, free will, etc.
- **Act** – we often **act like God** – enact justice, comfort, humor, Create & Cultivate
  - The Genesis narrative is all about **God’s work as the Creator and Cultivator** of existence – and they’re together in this 1-2 **Combo** – **Material & Meaning**

- **Heavens and Earth** – “created... the earth was formless and void”
  - **Light** – “Let there be light... separate the light from the darkness”
  - **Water** – “Let there be an expanse... separate the waters”
  - **Land** – “Let the waters... gathered into one place, bring forth land”
  - **Stars and Sun** – “Let there be lights... separate day from night”
- God always moved in this 1-2 combo because **He wanted a creation that could continue creating – which requires structure – Material & Meaning**
  - **Ex: Group projects** are always terrible because there’s always a **Dead Weight Doofus** who doesn’t **follow the structure**: show up for meetings or turn in portion, and if you don’t know one, you ARE one and you’d better repent
  - **Told fish and birds and animals** to keep creating (20-23)
  - **Told man** (26) and man said “I shall accept this job description”
- Why did God do this? **Revelation 5.13 explains “And every created...”**
  - God created **Material & Meaning to glorify Himself!** Unfortunately...
- Sin broke our relationship with God and banished us from His garden. However, in the brokenness, we just **can’t shake the drive to create and cultivate**, but...

#### What do we Create? – Just like our Creator, we create **Material** and **Meaning**

- **Material** – People are constantly creating Stuff
  - **Bible Ex:** Tools (4); Musical Instrument (4); Wine (9)
  - **Ex: Language; Tools; College; Technology**
    - Interestingly, most of our stuff is designed to bring order to the world around us – our **creations are cultivations**
    - **Ex:** Language-**speak**; Tools-**work**; colleges-**learn**; Tech-**pics** w/filters
  - As **we Cultivate**, we develop **incredible new structure for future creation**
    - **Ex: Language** leads to “selfie” “derp” “twerk”; **Tools** lead to engines lead to cars, planes; **Colleges** lead to med school lead to medicine; **Tech** lead to App Stores (**Proposal App**)
    - **Ex: Language** leads to new ways to **attack** each other and tear others apart; **Tools** lead to weapons lead to **war** we’re about to be in; **Colleges** lead to stress lead to **anxiety/depression**; **Tech** leads to increased online **pornography** leading to increased sex trafficking
  - **As we create & cultivate**, we develop **incredible new ways to bring pain** and destruction into the world, which **drives us to create...**
- **Meaning** – People are constantly creating Answers
  - When sin entered the world, our relationship with God was shattered and we lost much more than just the Materials in God’s garden, **we lost our Meaning**
  - Disconnected from our Creator, there are inescapable questions
    - **Who am I? What is my purpose? Why is there evil? What is true?**
    - **Ex: Philosophy** minor; Solipsism: Only I exist. Sorry.
    - **Ex:** I’m the byproduct of evolution. I’m here for my own enjoyment. Evil is simply another way of looking at things. There’s no truth.
  - With varying levels of success, **we’re all trying to create Materials and Meaning**, which, in other words, means we’re all creating...
- **Culture** – Maybe you remember 2 weeks ago: Culture isn’t some abstract idea or viewpoint – Culture isn’t how we Look at the World, it’s how we Live in the World
  - **Andy Crouch** – “Culture is what we make of the world...”

#### Application – What are you Creating?

- The only way we can **change our culture is to create culture** – imagine if we created something new and fresh and different from negative expectations of Christians!
- Imagine if we created Culture as it was **originally intended – to glorify God**
  - **Material** – What material are you creating? **Language** building others up and glorify God;

**Tools** that bring life; **College** with orgs like Impact or simple classroom interactions that glorify God; **Tech** that glorifies God (**GRACE APP**);

- **Meaning** – What meaning are you creating? **We can answer** “Who am I? What is my purpose? Why is there evil? What is true?” with the **GOSPEL**
- Just like those Duck Dynasty geniuses, **when we Create and Cultivate Culture, it builds Community that God can use to create and cultivate change beyond anything we could possibly imagine**
- **Communities creating/cultivating:**
  - Greg Matte starting **Breakaway** in 1989 with 12 friends  
<http://breakawayministries.org/>
  - Christy Dressell starting **Impact** in 1999 with 150 freshmen  
<http://impactretreat.com/pages/What-Is-Impact>