

The Mandate and the Mission

Genesis 1:28
Small Group Questions

WEEK OF OCTOBER 19-25, 2025

- (1) Read Genesis 1:26-28
 - (a) How does what God says in verse 28 correspond to what He says and does in verses 26-27?
 - (b) Why is it important for us to keep in mind the concept of man as the *royal image* of God?
- (2) What are the elements of the Cultural Mandate (and why is it called the Cultural Mandate) in verse 28?
- (3) Spend some time thinking through the implications of this mandate. It is just one verse, but it is full of application to every human endeavor and aspect of human life.
 - (a) Rehearse several different aspects of human activity and society. How should Genesis 1:28 shape our approach to these?
 - (b) How do you see the Cultural Mandate at play in 1 Kings 4:24-34?
 - (c) How do you see it play into the closing of the biblical story in Revelation 21:22-24?
- (4) What are implications of the Cultural Mandate for individuals, couples, and families in the Church? What contemporary issues does the Mandate speak into (and how)? Feel free to bring other Scripture to bear.
- (5) In light of what happens in Genesis 3, why do we need Christ in order for us to obey the Cultural Mandate as God intends?
- (6) Read Matthew 28:18-20. How does the Great Commission relate to the Cultural Mandate?
- (7) In what specific ways must missions be central to the way the Church seeks to obey both the Cultural Mandate and the Great Commission?
- (8) Close by discussing and applying this quote to Sylvania Church; if you disagree, explain why from Scripture, but in any case, aim at helping our church to walk more faithfully in Christ's call:

"It is nice for churches to hold bake sales and take kids to the beach. Those sorts of activities promote fellowship in the body, and that is good. But the overall goal has to be mission. Everything we do in the church has to be planned with the gospel as the center. If you have a bake sale, invite non-Christians to bake and to come. If you take kids to the beach, teach your kids how to witness to other surfers and swimmers and invite non-Christians to come along. This concept is sometimes called the *missional church*, where missions and evangelism are not just activities of the church or departments of the church but everything is focused on the advance of the gospel." (John Frame, *Concise Systematic Theology*)