

# God's 5-Fold Blessing to the Human Race at Creation

Genesis 1:28

## I. Quick Overview of the Five-Part Blessing:

- **Be Fruitful:** reproduce, bear children
- **Multiply:** to become much or many; to increase
- **Fill the Earth:** fill the earth
- **Subdue [the Earth]:** conquer the earth
- **Have Dominion Over [Fish, Birds, Every Creature]:** rule over all life forms

## II. Quick Review of What These Five Blessings Are (A, B, C, D, E from last week's sermon):

### A. Each Is an **Authorization** (God Gives Humans the **Right to Do These**)

All that we are allowed to do is determined by God. What is moral vs. immoral, our domain vs. God's domain, our realm vs. the realm of our neighbor, etc. is involved. God gave us permission to carry out these five blessings.

### B. Each Is a **Blessing** (God Gives Humans the **Privilege to Do These**)

Blessing = Each is something positive, good, & beneficial that is to be desired, sought, & received with happiness.

### C. Each Is a **Command** (God Gives Humans the **Responsibility to Do These**)

Each of the five is an imperative – a command. These are the first 5 commands to humans in all of the Bible.

### D. Each Is a [Dictated] **Direction** (God Gives Humans the **Path Which Will Be Taken**)

God set in motion a path which all of mankind will take, whether we cooperate with God or not. Though some of these mankind seeks to eliminate, each is a course that is determined by the Creator. God set each of these laws in motion that will be in some way kept by all of mankind in spite of man's knowledge or efforts to change. (cp. Gen 1:20-22).

### E. Each Is an **Enablement** (God Gives Humans the **Ability to Do These**)

Each involves the ability and capacity and desire to do the things commanded.

#### APPLICATION:

- *God Is the **Creator**: We are to understand God's design and desire, and work by and with His plan.*
- *God Is the **Explainer**: We must interpret life and culture by God's revelation, not by man's practice or culture's direction.*
- *God Is the **Sustainer**: We can see God's creative work still in force today, though marred and actively rejected by man.*

## III. Detailed Summary of the Five-Part Blessing

### A. Be Fruitful

1. **Definition:** *to bear children, to be fruitful, to bear fruit, to bear young; i.e. to reproduce; the capability to bear children; the responsibility to bear children*
2. **Description:** *By God's design every marriage is intended to produce children as the primary purpose (unless God Himself prevents this). Bearing children is to be seen as something good and desired, not something avoided and unwanted. It is the primary purpose of the male/female design (see our recent sermon on that). (Psalm 128:1-4)*

#### BE FRUITFUL TO WHAT EXTENT?

### B. Multiply

1. **Definition:** *to bear many children; to become much or many, to multiply, to increase, become numerous*
2. **Description:** *the blessing and command to become many; we should be increasing in number, which, at a minimum requires us to have larger families (and thus it would change the structure of society by default)*
3. **Detail:** *Children are seen as desired & good (Gen 17:20 – Ishmael; 22:17 – Abraham; 28:3 – Jacob). Having children is seen as a direct blessing from God.*

#### MULTIPLY UNTIL WHEN?

### C. Fill the Earth

1. **Definition:** *to bear many children until the earth is filled; to be abundant & overflowing; to fill a place with anything*
2. **Description:** *not just “spread out” but “fill up” (no time or quantity limit “until this # of people,” no economic limit “unless things are tight,” etc.)*
3. **Detail:** *How are we doing? – 6.5 Billion People! Are we full?*

**What If We Stood Them Altogether?** *How much space would it take? Africa? Europe? \_\_\_\_\_*

**What If We Lived Together?** *Where would we fit? \_\_\_\_\_*

**MYTH OF OVERPOPULATION** – *Not hinted at in Scripture, or reasonable from observation = AGENDA (the world is actually tapering off, with tragic effects).*

### WHY FILL THE EARTH?

#### D. Subdue the Earth

1. **Definition:** *to take control of, to conquer – to become master over the earth, and responsible for it*
2. **Description:** *to become master over the earth, and responsible for it (with a view to enjoying it?) – this is where mankind gets the right to grow crops, mine minerals, cut down trees, build houses, etc.*
3. **Detail:** *Joshua 18:1 Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them.*

#### E. Have Dominion Over

1. **Definition:** *to rule over, to conquer – to become master over the earth, and responsible for it*
2. **Description:** *this is the authorization where mankind receives authorization to raise livestock, have pets, corral or cage animals, to go fishing, etc.*

### TODAY’S “TAKE AWAY”:

- **Read and Know Your Bible:** Be able to discern the lies of the age, whether the myth of overpopulation, the curse of children, the confusion of animal rights, etc.
- **Receive the Blessings of the Lord:** Embrace what God has designed and command, rather than fleeing from it.

*We will have a Q & A time for today’s Starting Block over this passage and topics related to it.*