



**Keswick
Ministries**

HEARING BECOMING SERVING

On Being Creatures

The Dignity and Beauty of Being Human - Life

Matthew Mason: Seminar 1

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This seminar is the first in a series of four. You can watch the seminars on your own or with your church, small group, or friends. Alongside these notes, there is a handout to accompany the seminar (<https://tinyurl.com/9a5aczfj>). The questions/reflections below may help you discuss and work through how to apply what you've learnt to your own life. Start the video and then pause it when suggested to look at the question(s).

WATCH THE VIDEO:

[Seminar 1:
https://tinyurl.com/2xtbz5ft](https://tinyurl.com/2xtbz5ft)



To watch the video, scan the QR code or go to @KeswickConvention on YouTube and search for Matthew Mason

SEMINAR OUTLINE

The Bible tells us that a good God created us out of nothing and made us in his image. This seminar explores how these truths give purpose and dignity to human life, and the implications if we remove God from the picture.

QUESTIONS

Watch the video and pause it at 18:26 minutes. (<https://tinyurl.com/2xtbz5ft>)

1. If you asked your non-Christian friends, 'What gives a person's life value?' How do you think they would respond?
2. What difference does it make to our sense of purpose, value and dignity to know that we are created by God?

Restart video at 18:26 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/mrxhka3z>) and watch until 42:22 minutes.

3. God loves us but he doesn't need us. What does this truth teach us about God and our relationship with him?
4. 'Weakness is not a bug in the system, it is a feature' (Matthew Mason). How does it help your own situation to know that weakness and dependency are a natural and inevitable part of human life?

Restart video at 42:22 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/4aawv6am>) and watch until the end.

5. What are the implications for society, and human dignity in particular, if we refuse to believe that God made us in his image?
6. 'God wants us for himself' (Karl Barth). Why do Christians sometimes struggle with this idea? What impact would it have if we really embraced this truth?



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REFLECTION/PRAYER

- If you struggle with your own sense of value and purpose, reflect on what it means to be created by a good God and to bear his image. Write down and pray through the Bible verses highlighted in the seminar. Ask God for help to trust what he says about himself and about you, and to accept the dignity he gives you.
- Take a walk with a friend enjoying creation and noticing all the ways it signposts the goodness of God.
- 'Prayer is the most rational thing you will ever do' (Matthew Mason). As a group, bring your praise and requests to God, recognizing your complete dependence on him.
- This week meditate on Romans 11:36. Let Paul's words fuel your worship as you thank God for his unparalleled greatness as your Creator and Sustainer, and for the purpose and dignity he gives to your life.