

## WEEK 8

### Bible Study: Genesis 1:27-31 & Philippians 4:6-9

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Read Genesis 1:27-31. What does it mean to you to be made in the image of God?

Read Philippians 4:8. Think about the adjectives “true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable” as descriptors of the music you have made with your life. As God looks over the course of your life, where do you think he would use these adjectives to describe what you have done with your life? In other words, where has the music that you’ve made been true or noble or lovely?

### Highlights from Chapter 12, Jazz

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Human beings are created—*designed*—to live within the guidelines of a general “shape” or “form.” In other words, living the way we were created to live is similar to playing jazz—it has both form and freedom.

This means:

1. We are designed to live according to the rules and structure God has revealed to us in his Word.
2. At the same time, we are designed to freely express ourselves within that general structure.

When we live in harmony with God, we will (usually) find ourselves living in harmony with others. (Jesus lived in harmony with God, but at times this created disharmony with others!)

Not having all the answers can be exciting and beautiful, and is God’s design for us. We don’t want to fear life’s spontaneity but to embrace it.

### Questions To Consider While Reading

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If your life were a song, what musical style would it be?

What do we need to know to follow the “form” of God’s kingdom?

Why will living within God’s form/structure lead to transcendent experiences?

Why didn’t God just give us completely scripted sheet music to live by?

How are we to use the freedom God has given us to play music with him?

One of the main points of this chapter is that the music we make with our life very often “harms and does not heal, it divides and does not reconcile” (P. 145). This is true. What is equally true, however, is that often times we have made incredibly beautiful music with our life. Many of us have taken an old out-of-tune piano and made some beautiful music. There are two things that we have a very hard time acknowledging. One is our depravity. The other is our glory. Where in your life have you made some really beautiful music? Where have you seen your glory?

Do you feel like an instrument skillfully played in the hands of God, or are you playing your own tune?

Is the form and structure that is currently guiding your life the form and structure that you were designed to follow?