

Gospel Lighthouse Church
Men's Fellowship
January 17, 2026
Excavation Manhood-Identity

Session 1-Man as a Creative Being

Introduction: This session begins our journey into the Ninefold Identity of man by uncovering the first and foundational truth: **man as a creative being**. Through scriptural excavation—digging beneath the surface of familiar passages to expose the ninefold identity God originally embedded in humanity—we discover that creativity is not optional, accidental, or selective. It is the first expression of God's image placed in man. Genesis reveals that before man was tasked, named, cultivated, or governed, he was created to **create**—to imagine, to build, to shape, and to bring forth what did not yet exist. This session invites us to uncover that buried potential, to recognize creativity as a God-given identity, and to begin reclaiming it together in community. As we dig, we don't invent identity—we reveal what God already designed. Session One opens the door to this ninefold excavation, establishing creativity as the starting point from which every other identity flows.

The Scriptural Excavation Project

- **What is scriptural excavation?** **Excavation** means to dig out, uncover, and remove what hides what is already there. This project uncovers God's **ninefold identity** placed within man from creation.
- Identity is not self-built, its revealed. Its revealed in communication, not isolation.

Why the number nine? In scripture, **nine symbolizes**: finality, full expression. The results of a completed process. Examples:

- **Jesus died at the ninth hour** (3 PM), bringing His earthly atonement work to completion—Mark 15:34–37.
- **The nine manifestations of the Spirit** Though the total gifts listed in the New Testament exceed nine, many Christian traditions identify a core grouping of **nine charismatic gifts**—1 Corinthians 12:8–10.
- **The ninefold fruit of the Spirit**—Galatians 5:22–23.

The ninefold creative potential is what God fully placed in man from the beginning.

Why the excavation within a community of men?

Creativity requires partnership. God creates in community.

“Let **us** make man...” (Gen. 1:26).

Creation happened through **collaboration**, not isolation.

Man was formed in community.

- Genesis 2:7 — God *formed* (yatzar) man with the care of a potter.
- Man's design emerged in **relational interaction**, not independence.

Implication for this group.

- Excavation requires **teams**, partnership, and shared discovery.
- Men uncover identity **together**, one identity at a time.
- This group becomes an **excavation team**, helping remove what has buried God-given identity.

IDENTITY 1: Man as a Creative Being.

- God is Creator; man bears His creative image.
- Creativity is the **first identity** God placed in man.

Men who created or built things (Genesis 4)

- **Cain** – Built the **first city** mentioned in the Bible (Genesis 4:17).
- **Jabal** – Known as the **father of those who live in tents and raise livestock** (early animal farming)—Gen.4:20.
- **Jubal** – Known as the **father of music**, specifically instruments like the harp and flute—Gen.4:21.

- **Tubal-Cain** – A **metalworker**, forging tools from bronze and iron (early technology)

Creativity is:

- A core expression of divine image-bearing.
- The starting point of purpose.
- A living part of every man often buried but never erased.

Session 1 GATHERING EXERCISE—Dust-to-Design Reflection

- **Reflect:**
 - Where am I creating?
 - Where have I stopped?
 - What buried my creativity?
- **Share (Team groups):**
 “What creativity in me needs excavation?”
- **Declare (Together):**
*“God placed creativity in me.
 I excavate what He planted.
 I am designed to create—in community.”*

TAKE-HOME EXERCISE:7-Day Creation Log

- Each day, record **one thing you created/formed/fashion**—a solution, idea, plan, repair, encouragement, action, or insight.

End-of-week questions:

1. What surprised me about my creativity?
2. Where did I feel most alive while creating?
3. How did community help awaken creativity this week?

****Contact team and share.**

JDF

Dr. Jerry D. Fryar, Senior Pastor