

FOR PASTORS



MADE in the
IMAGE
of **GOD**

“AND GOD SAID, LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE,

AFTER OUR LIKENESS

Genesis 1:26-27

**"LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS"
(Genesis 1:26-27)**

"And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

Many people believe that when God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" that it means that man is a "three-part" being, like the Trinity, the Father-the Son-the Holy Spirit. They believe that because in I Thessalonians 5:23 it states:

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

That statement is no doubt true but that is not what the Scriptures mean when God said, "...let us make man in our image." That is comparing God to the physical body of man. That cannot be true because God does not have a physical body. John 4: 24 says, "*God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*" In spite of God being a spirit, He has all the components that man has in his physical body. The Bible does not explain how, but we know that is true as we compare "scripture with scripture."

1. God can see - Genesis 16:13
2. God can hear- Psalm 94:9
3. God can smell - Genesis 8:21
5. God can touch - Isaiah 55:8
6. God can speak - II Peter 1:18
7. God can weep - John 11:35

When God created Adam "in his own likeness," **God had something in mind.** Also, **God had a primary purpose for creating man.** We are going to look at the four basic characteristics that God had in mind when He created man. After looking at the four basic characteristics, we will look at how they apply to man - created in God's likeness. Also, we will study "...the primary purpose..." God had in mind when He created man!

THE FOUR BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

1. **Intellect:** God has intellect. Intellect means the ability to learn, to know, to understand, to reason, to grow in knowledge, and to react accordingly.
2. **Emotion:** God has emotion. Emotion is the ability to love, to be angry, to be glad, to be sad, and a number of other things.
3. **Free Will:** God has a free will. Having a free will means that a person can make his own choices regardless of the circumstances, or has the free will to make his own choices regardless of whether his decision is in accord with the Bible or contrary to the Bible. Every person ever born into this world has the ability to make choices as he chooses.

4. **Eternal:** God is eternal. Being eternal means that he will live forever. When God created man, God created man to be "eternal." This means that man will live forever.

HOW THOSE FOUR BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD APPLY TO MAN

Intellect: God has intellect. When God created man, He created him with intellect!

Babies are born with intellect. When they are first born, they quickly learn that if they are hungry, they learn that if they cry, someone will give them food. They learn at a very early age how to ask for food. From then on, they understand that when they cry, they would get food. If food does not come quickly, they "learn" that if they cry long enough and loud enough - someone will feed them. That is intellect.

Babies also learn that when Mama lays them down in a crib and they do not want to lay down, they cry with a different sound, and they learned that someone will come and pick them up. They learn that someone will put them on their shoulder and walk them around and talk to them. That is called intellect. When God created man, God created him with "intellect."

Emotion: God has emotion. When God created man, He created him with emotion!

As babies grow and become children, they continue to learn and react. When there is thunder and lightning, they become fearful. They begin to cry because they are afraid. When Mom or Dad picks them up and begins to play with them, talk with them, pinch them on the cheek, they get happy. They are glad. They are having fun. They are born with the emotion. The ability to be happy is an emotion. As they get a little older, someone may say something mean to them and when that happens, they get angry. They get upset. They don't like people to say mean things to them. They hurt. That is emotion. Man is born with emotion!

When children grow into adults, they get married. The husband loves the wife. He will tell her how much he loves her. He will put his arms around her. He will tell her she is beautiful. In return, she will put her arms around him. She will tell him how much she loves him. They both will be very happy. That is emotion. Every man and woman who has ever been born into this world has emotion. When God created man, God created him with "emotion."

Free Will: God has a free will. When God created man, He created him with a free will.

I feel sure that everyone reading this booklet is aware that God created us with a "free will." Even though we are "bought with a price," God set us free and we are free to choose what we prefer to do. For example, in Hebrews 10:25 God said, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." That clearly states that it is God's will for every Christian to "be in God's house" on the "first day of the week" to worship and to be encouraged.

God has told us that we are to be in His house assembled with believers of "like precious faith" to be encouraged, exhorted, and challenged. However, when Sunday morning comes, you have a free will and can choose to (1) Get up, get ready and attend God's house, or, (2) You can get up, have coffee, and choose not to attend God's house. You can choose to go hunting or go fishing, go

visit friends, or stay home and sleep. God has made "His will" clear to us, but the choice is ours. When God created man, God created him with "a free will."

Eternal: God is eternal. When God created man, He created him to be eternal!

This characteristic of God is clearly understood. Everyone reading this booklet knows that they are going to live on forever and forever. When God created man, God created him to be eternal!

Now, as I said earlier, we will look at

WHAT DID GOD HAVE IN MIND WHEN HE CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE?

1. Why did God Create Man with Intellect?

What God had in mind when He created man with intellect is found in Philippians 3:10. Paul stated:

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."

God created man in order that man could "get to know Him" and to grow in the grace and knowledge of God. To get to "know" a person each day takes "intellect." God created man with

"Intellect" because He wants us to "get to know" Him a little better every day of our life. That is "what God had in mind" when He created you with intellect. We get to know God by the study of the Word of God.

2. Why did God Create Man with Emotion?

That answer is found in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. In the Old Testament, it is found in Deuteronomy 6:4-5:

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

That same statement is found in the New Testament in Mark 12:30:

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."

Let us go back to the first characteristic of "Intellect." Why did God create man with "Intellect?" God created man with "intellect" in order that man might "get to know Him better." Why? Because God knew that people fall in love with a person when they "get to know that person" just as you, one day, fell in love with your wife or husband. Also, God knew that the more you "get to know" that person the more you love that person. That is what God had in mind when He created man. He wanted man to love Him more and more, until man loved him, "with all his mind, his soul, his heart, and his strength." The only way for that to happen is "for us to get to know God" better every day of our life!

I fell in love with my wife after I "got to know her." The more I got to know her, the more I loved her. A time came when I loved her enough to ask her to marry me. I was lucky enough for her to say "yes!" At that time I loved her and she loved me. However, today, we love each other much more than the day we got married. We love each other more today than we did yesterday. Why? Because we get to know each other a little better every day by spending time together.

What did God have in mind when he created man with emotion? God wanted someone who would "get to know" Him and would love Him more and more each day.

3. Why did God Create Man with a Free Will?

As stated above, God created man with the desire that man might love Him. Many Christians today think that God created man to "serve" Him. Nothing could be further from the truth. Think about this. God has angels that serve him. Not only does God have angels that serve him, but God is all powerful and can accomplish whatsoever He pleases without the help of angels. When God created man, God had no need whatsoever for anyone to serve him.

If God would have wanted someone to serve him, He could have created a robot. If He had just wanted to hear the words, "I love you," He could have programmed the robot in a manner that every time He wanted to hear those words, "I love you," He could have said to the robot; "Robot, do you love Me?" The robot would have responded and said, "Yes, I love you. Yes, I love you. Yes, I love you."

What would that have meant to God? It would have meant absolutely nothing. God did not create man to serve him and He did not create a robot to tell Him that he loved Him. God's desire in creating man was that He would have someone who would love Him with all their mind, all their soul, all their heart, and with all their strength and, would, of their "Own free will," tell Him that they loved Him! They would tell God that they loved Him because they truly loved Him.

Let me ask a question that will help us understand this more clearly. Let's look at "two" different types of a wife. **Wife number one (1)**, is a wife that "serves" her husband by: cleaning his house, washing his clothes, doing the ironing, preparing meals, washing dishes, and doing everything else in his home that a wife generally does, BUT, she does not love him. She only does those things expected of a wife because she has to do them. **Wife number two (2)**, is a wife that "loves" her husband with all of her heart. Then, because she "loves" her husband with all of her heart, she does all of those things that are listed above, and more, but she does them, not because she has to, but because she loves her husband and enjoys showing him that love by "serving" him. Which type of wife would you prefer to have, wife number one or wife number two?

I know the answer to the question: wife number two! I am also a husband and I would 100% prefer to have a wife that loves me and does everything she does - because she loves me. All of those things listed above about things a wife does at the house - you can "hire" someone to do those things. However, you CANNOT hire a wife to love you with all her heart.

God feels the same way. For that reason, God created man in His own image, and He gave man a "free will" because He wants "the man," (in this case, you) to love Him with all your heart and "serve" Him - BECAUSE you love Him. That is what "God had in mind" when He created man and gave him a "free-will."

God knew that if a man loved Him with all his heart that man would "serve" Him, just as a wife "serves" her husband because she loves him, AND, a husband "serves" his wife because he loves her. That is what God desires!

ALL THINGS IN HEAVEN AND EARTH WERE CREATED
FOR HIS PLEASURE!

Revelation 4:11

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

It amazes me that "the creator of the world, and all that is in the world," and can "speak" anything that He desires into existence, would create ME, a nobody, and "you" a nobody, thinking that "you and I" could give Him pleasure! Unbelievable!

In light of that truth, what should be the most important thing in my life and your life? I think the most important thing in the life of ANY Christian should be to "**do what we were created to do!**" Let me list a few things that Christians can and should do, in order to give the Lord pleasure.

First: A Christian should seek to "get to know" the Lord Jesus Christ better every day. That was the primary purpose of Paul's life. Paul stated his purpose in Philippians 3:10:

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"

If a Christian does not care enough to "get to know Him," how can that Christian ever hope to fulfil the purpose for which God created him?

The only way a Christian can get to know the Lord better is to spend time with Him. To "get to know Him," you must spend time with Him EVERY day reading and studying the Bible. The Bible is "Christ's Written Word." A Christian gets to know "the Living Word" by spending time with the "Written Word," every day. That is the reason He created you! Spending time, "getting to know Him" should be most important in your life. Why? Because, that was God's "primary purpose" when He created you!

Second: A Christian should seek to "love the Lord thy God, with all your mind, all of your soul, all of your heart, and all of your strength." According to God's own words, that is the "greatest commandment of all."

"And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."

You learn to "love the Lord thy God" when you spend time with Him in His Word! That is

the ONLY way to "love the Lord" with all your heart, your soul, your mind and your strength. You MUST get to know a person in order to love the person. Your life will be successful if you do what you were created to do. You were created to give the Lord pleasure!

Third: A Christian should seek to "obey the teaching of the Word of God." Our obedience gives God great pleasure. I Samuel 15:22 tells us how important it is to our Lord.

"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

There is a second verse that not only expresses the importance of obeying the Word of God, but it also tells of the GREAT benefits and blessings we will receive by doing so. Those blessings come because of the "pleasure it gives God" when we obey His Word!

*"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest **observe to do** according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Joshua 1:8)*

What will you be doing, if you obey these verses? You will be doing what God created you to do. You will be providing "pleasure for the Lord," your creator!

Fourth: A Christian should seek to "be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ." As we have already studied, when God created man, He created us "in the image of God." The first man, Adam, sinned against God and "spoiled that image." That WAS NOT GOD'S WILL! That happened because Adam did not "obey" God's commandment.

Since that time, God's desire has continued to be that man would be conformed back "to the image" in which he was originally created. Romans 8:29 states:

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Fifth: All of the four things above can be summed up on one verse. John 8:29, which states,

"And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."

If the purpose of the Lord Jesus Christ while He was here on earth in the form of a man was "to do all things to please His Heavenly Father," how much more should you and I "do all things to please our Heavenly Father?" Breaking that down, that means Jesus purposed to please His Father in His thoughts, in His Words, in His Attitude, and in His Actions. If Jesus Christ, as God in the flesh, purposed to do that, without any doubt whatsoever, every Christian should seek to "please our Heavenly Father." We should please God in...

A. Our Thoughts:

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (II Corinthians 10:5)

B. Our Words:

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." (Ephesians 4:29)

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer." (Psalm 19:14)

C. Our Attitude:

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way." (Psalm 37:23)

D. Our Actions:

"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:30-32)

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." (Romans 8:13)

I ask myself this question: "Do I want to fulfill the purpose for which God created me? Is it reasonable for God to ask me to fulfill the purpose for which He created me?" Yes, it is reasonable for God to expect that. Yes, I have a driving desire to fulfill the purpose for which God created me. I hope that after reading this short commentary on being created "in the Image of God" that you will seek to fulfill the purpose for which you were created!