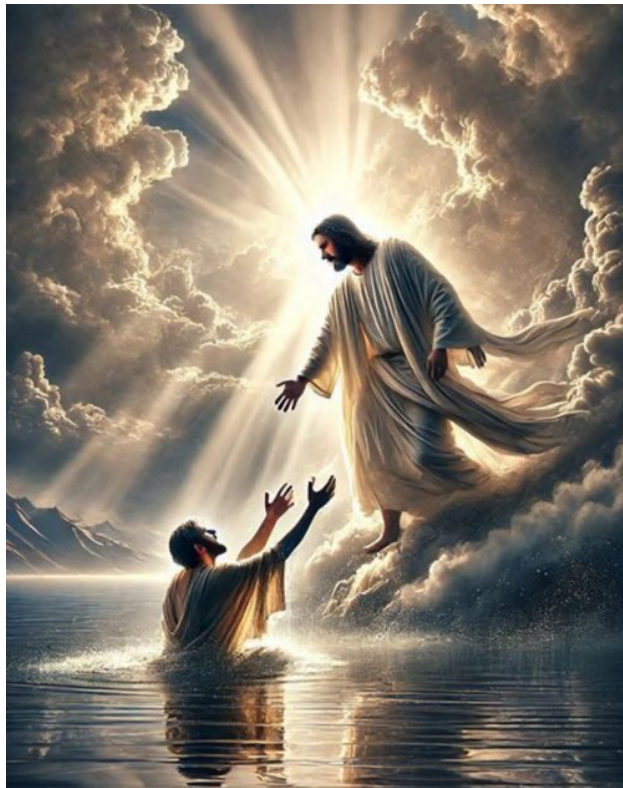




The Doctrine of Man - Part 5

Title: Man and God



Why did God create man in the first place?

Before giving the various reasons why he did, it should be strongly stated that God did not make man because he was lonely.

Long before he created angels or man, the Father was having blessed fellowship with his beloved Son:

Prov 8:22-30 NLT:

22 “The LORD formed me from the beginning,
before he created anything else.

23 I was appointed in ages past,
at the very first, before the earth began.

24 I was born before the oceans were created,
before the springs bubbled forth their waters.

25 Before the mountains were formed,
before the hills, I was born—

26 before he had made the earth and fields
and the first handfuls of soil.

27 I was there when he established the heavens,
when he drew the horizon on the oceans.

28 I was there when he set the clouds above,
when he established springs deep in the earth.

29 I was there when he set the limits of the seas,
so they would not spread beyond their boundaries.

And when he marked off the earth's foundations,

30 I was the architect at his side.

I was his constant delight,
rejoicing always in his presence.

John 17:5 NLT:

**5 Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared
before the world began.**

John 17:24 NLT:

**24 Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with
me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me
because you loved me even before the world began!**



But why, then, did he create man?

Historically speaking, man was created to demonstrate and display the glory of God:

Ps 8:1 NLT:

8 For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by a stringed instrument.

1 O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

Your glory is higher than the heavens.

Ps 8: 3-5 NLT:

3 When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place—

4 what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?

5 Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

Isa 43:7 NLT:

7 Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory.

It was I who created them.’”

Eph 1:11-12 NLT:

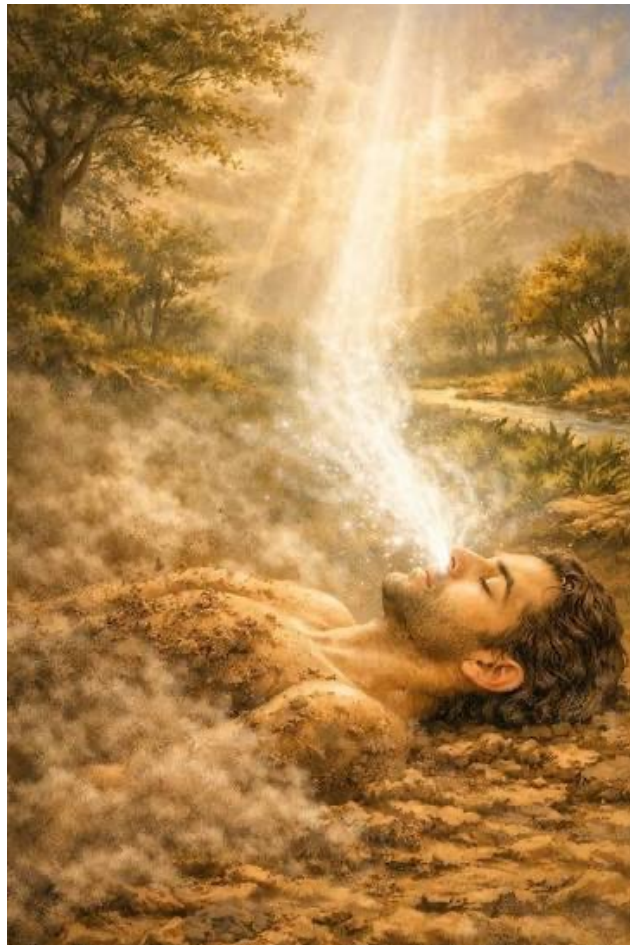
11 Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

12 God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God.

Rev 4:11 NLT:

11 "You are worthy, O Lord our God,
to receive glory and honor and power.

For you created all things,
and they exist because you created what you pleased."



Prophetically speaking, man was created to demonstrate and display the grace of God:

Eph 2:4-7 NLT:

4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much,

5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

6 For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

7 So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

And the bottom line of all the above? Simply this:

1. We are to “do all to the glory of God” (**1 Cor 10:31**), resulting in him rejoicing over us as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride (**Isa 62:5**).

1 Cor 10:31 NLT:

31 So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Isa 62:5 NLT:

5 Your children will commit themselves to you, O Jerusalem,
just as a young man commits himself to his bride.

Then God will rejoice over you

as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride.

2. We are admonished to do all this by the very first question in the Westminster Larger Catechism:

Question: What is the chief and highest end of man?

Answer: Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God and fully enjoy him forever.

How is man made in the image and likeness of God?

Gen 1:26-27 NLT:

26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

27 So God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.



How are we to understand Genesis 1:26-27?

Throughout the history of the Christian church various theories have been propounded.

A. That this likeness means God possesses a physical body similar to man.

It is amazing (indeed, shocking) to discover the number of people holding this totally unscriptural and bizarre theory. **Mormonism has taught this since its inception.**

Josh McDowell quotes from The King Follet Discourse:

I am going to inquire after God: for I want you all to know him and be familiar with him ... I will go back to the beginning before the world was, to show you what kind of a being God is.

God was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens. ... I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in a form like yourselves in all the person, image, and very form of a man. **(Handbook of Today's Religions, p. 69)**

All this perhaps could be expected from the cults. However, it is truly shocking to hear this heresy coming from those who profess to be evangelicals.

I believe that in this divine Godhead there are three separate and distinct persons—each having His own personal spirit body, personal soul, and personal spirit. **(Jimmy Swaggart, Questions and Answers, p. 199)**

B. That this likeness is a reference to the triunity of man.

In other words, as God is triune in nature (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), he created man a triune creature consisting of spirit, soul, and body.

C. That this likeness is associated with man's self-consciousness and sense of morality.

This theory states that man is created in the image of God in that his Creator gave him self-consciousness and a sense of morality as God himself possesses.

D. That this likeness is tied in with the Incarnation.

This theory states that when God spoke these words he was thinking of the future incarnation of Christ, the God-man, and his present-day work in making the Christian like himself:

Phil 3:20-21 NLT:

20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

21 He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

1 Jn 3:2 NLT:

2 Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.

At any rate, there seems to be an image of God in all men that cannot be lost, and an image that can be lost.

The image that cannot be lost:

1 Cor 11:7 NLT:

7 A man should not wear anything on his head when worshiping, for man is made in God's image and reflects God's glory. And woman reflects man's glory.

Jas 3:8-9 NLT:

8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison.

9 Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God.

God institutes capital punishment and justifies it on the grounds that a murderer should die for taking the life of another creature made in the image of God:

Gen 9:6 NLT:

6 If anyone takes a human life, that person's life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image.

The Bible therefore indicates that all unsaved men still display certain traces of the original image of God's creation.

It has been suggested that fallen man resembles a beautiful European cathedral after it has been gutted by a Nazi bomb.

2. The image that can be lost:

Eph 4:24 NLT:

24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

Col 3:9-10 NLT:

9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.

10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

Thus, it would seem evident from these verses that there is a part of God's image that was lost after Adam sinned and must now be restored by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

This lost image would thus seem to affect the ability to know God and the desire to love and serve him.



Prominent theologian H. Wayne House characterizes this likeness in four dimensions:

a. Rational dimension:

Man was given responsibility to exercise dominion over the earth:

Gen 1:26-28 NLT:

26 Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

27 So God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

28 Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

Ps 8:4-9 NLT:

4 what are mere mortals that you should think about them,

human beings that you should care for them?

5 Yet you made them only a little lower than God

and crowned them with glory and honor.

6 You gave them charge of everything you made,
putting all things under their authority—
7 the flocks and the herds
and all the wild animals,
8 the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea,
and everything that swims the ocean currents.
9 O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

Adam was commanded to take care of the garden.

Adam named the animals:

Gen 2:19-20 NLT:

19 So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one.

20 He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.



Adam recognized that the woman was a helper suitable for him:

Gen 2:22-24 NLT:

22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

23 “At last!” the man exclaimed.

“This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!

She will be called ‘woman,’

because she was taken from ‘man.’”

24 This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

Gen 2:20 NLT:

20 He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.



b. Spiritual dimension:

Adam and Eve had fellowship with God.

Gen 3:8 NLT:

8 When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees.

Adam and Eve feared God after their sin.

Gen 3:10 NLT:

10 He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."

c. Moral dimension:

God gave Adam and Eve a moral command:

Gen 2:17 NLT:

17 except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

Adam and Eve had a sense of moral rectitude:

Gen 2:25 NLT:

25 Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

Adam and Eve experienced guilt following their transgression:

Gen 3:7 NLT:

7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

This seems to indicate that the image included original righteousness:

Gen 1:31 NLT:

31 Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

Eccl 7:29 NLT:

29 But I did find this: God created people to be virtuous, but they have each turned to follow their own downward path.”

d. Social dimension:

Adam and Eve conversed with each other [presumably]

Gen 2:18 NLT:

18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.”

Gen 2:23 NLT:

23 “At last!” the man exclaimed.

“This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!

She will be called ‘woman,’
because she was taken from ‘man.’”

Gen 3:6-8 NLT:

6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

8 When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees.

Gen 4:1 NLT:

Cain and Abel

1 Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, “With the LORD’s help, I have produced a man!”

(Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine, p. 83)

How do we obtain the Forgiveness of our Sins?



How do we get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?

Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, in Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life and be my Lord and Savior.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have everlasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and may HE use you to help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In, Jesus Mighty Name!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed