

A Study of Man

- * The pinnacle of God's creation is Man!
- * He created both male and female "in His image" to be "like Him."
- * Let's delve into what God said concerning Man and his place in God's creation!

I. In scripture we read that God "created Man"! First, what does that mean?

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image..."

(NIV)

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image..."

(NLT)

26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us."

- A. The word "man" simply refers to the "whole human race!"
 1. So, let's stop the silly squabbling over the gender terms of "man" or "woman!"
 2. In the Hebrew the word "man" simply means human!
 3. Then, God does get "gender specific when He says..."

Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female He created them.

- 4. While we want to "walk in love and acceptance" in all things, let's submit to God's version and description of His creation!
 5. After all, it's His...He created it...so it's His privilege to describe and define it!
 6. I must remind us to be gentle, loving and careful as individuals struggle with their personhood and identity.
- B. I believe at its heart, this is a "theological issue." What we understand God to say is of utmost importance!

Genesis 5:1-3 (NIV)

1 This is the written account of Adam's family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind" when they were created. 3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

1. The reason I think this is a "theological issue" is because of

- the “image of God” statement!
- 2. Because of the “He created them” statement!
- 3. When viewed in scripture there is great “honor and distinction” given to men and women!
- 4. Only as equally viewed TOGETHER can we accurately reflect our Heavenly Father, our Creator!
- 5. I must quickly add: Never should we dishonor, devalue or treat as less, those struggling with this identity!
- 6. That dishonors God, the Creator of us all!

II. Let’s consider the obvious question of WHY? Why did God create man? Was He bored? Perhaps lonely? Oh, He couldn’t do it without us!

- A. Does God NEED us or the rest of creation? If God truly “needs” anything, He isn’t God!

John 5:26 (NIV)

26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

- 1. No, there is no “need” in God, Son or Spirit!
- 2. There has always been and will always be the perfect love, fellowship and fulfillment in The Trinity!
- 3. That is actually the source of our answer as to “why” God created.

John 17:5 (NLT)

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

- 4. So, the answer to our “why question” is actually very simple!
- 5. Since “God is love,” He wants to share all He is!
- 6. He created out of love because He wants to share this “life of The Trinity” with someone else!

John 17:26 (NIV)

26 I have made you known to them and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

- B. God has created us to bless us with His own glory!

- 1. I have been told many times by people struggling with life, “I didn’t ask to be born!! I wish I had never been born!”
- 2. While I understand they are struggling through the miseries of life, it is obvious they do not know the “purpose of life!”
- 3. The purpose of being brought into the life that existed with Father, Son and Holy Spirit from eternity past!

Isaiah 43:7 (MSG)

7 Return my sons from distant lands, my daughters from faraway places.
I want them back, every last one who bears my name, every man, woman, and child whom I
created for my glory, yes, personally formed and made each one.

4. This “coming back” has been provided by the coming
of Jesus Christ and the plan of God through His redemption!

Ephesians 1:11-12 (MSG)

11-12 It’s in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first
heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living,
part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

5. All of our lives, all of our thoughts and activities, should
reflect the Lord! Not in some religious way, but simply
as we live “in His image and likeness!”

1 Corinthians 10:23, 31 (PHILLIPS)

23 As I have said before, the Christian position is this: I may do anything, but everything is not
useful. Yes, I may do anything, but everything is not constructive.

31 Because, whatever you do, eating or drinking or anything else, everything should be done to
bring glory to God.

III. The meaning of us “being created in His image”.

A. When researching scripture, we can conclude this simple definition:

“The fact that man is in the image of God, means that man is like
God and represents God.”

1. Both Hebrew words for likeness, (demut) and
image (tselem,) refer to “something similar while a little
different.”
2. We are similar to God but...we are not God!
3. We are representatives, but we are not Him!
4. Without being overly analytical, put yourself in the place of the
“original hearers” of this statement.
5. It seems logical that they would have heard, “we are made more
like God than any other part of creation. After all, he said we are
to rule and reign with Him in His creation.”

B. These are topics we need to study and be aware of concerning Man:

1. The Fall: God’s image was distorted!
2. Redemption: The initial work of restoration and the continued
progression through sanctification and becoming a disciple!

3. This restoration will be complete only when we see Him face to face!
4. All of humanity has great value as image bearers of God!

Psalm 8:3-8 (TPT)

3 Look at the splendor of your skies, your creative genius glowing in the heavens. When I gaze at your moon and your stars, mounted like jewels in their settings, I know you are the fascinating artist who fashioned it all! But when I look up and see such wonder and workmanship above, I have to ask you this question: 4 Compared to all this cosmic glory, why would you bother with puny, mortal man or be infatuated with Adam's sons?

5 Yet what honor you have given to men, created only a little lower than Elohim, crowned like kings and queens with glory and magnificence. 6 You have delegated to them mastery over all you have made, making everything subservient to their authority, placing earth itself under the feet of your image-bearers. 7–8 All the created order and every living thing of the earth, sky, and sea—the wildest beasts and all the sea creatures—everything is in submission to Adam's sons.