

## **In the Beginning**

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### **Passage**

Genesis 1:27 (New International Version)

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

### **Introduction**

In the beginning, man was created - not developed gradually like a baby - and appeared as the crown and goal of all God's creative activity with regard to the earth as man's special home.

Each person, male and female is made in God's image, as in the human race as a whole. So the image of God applies both individually and collectively. You see, God provided for them in the Garden of Eden, and He also promised to provide for mankind outside the Garden of Eden as well.

#### **I. The beautiful creation of man**

Genesis 1:26 (New International Version)

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

The fact that God made man in his image and likeness sketches out the most fundamental difference between humans and other creatures. Adam is the first man and "Son of God," the crown and climax of God's creation. He, out of dust of the ground, formed Adam, and through divine breath he became a living soul.

Thus, we, as human beings, stand apart from all other living creatures because of our relationship with God.

Therefore, having the image or likeness of God means that we were made to resemble Him, but not physically. I prefer the word "likeness," which is based in our similarity with God, morally and spiritually, and not at all physical. The word "image" could refer to any idol made of wood, or picture frames, or golden calf.

Adam did not resemble God in the sense of God's having flesh and blood; for the simple reason that God is Spirit without physical form. The apostle John in his book...

John 4:24 (New International Version)

<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

However, It's that very spiritual nature God has shared with man. It's that quality, which makes man unique among all and superior to all other earthly creatures. Other elements of the natural image of God are immortality and intelligence. We as a spiritual being are immortal, an image of His own eternity.

In addition, our intellectual powers are reflecting the Creator's power. He is the ultimate Source of all the power and authority, which exists. Therefore, He has enabled us to know, to reason, to imagine, to remember, to judge and to will.

Revelation 4:11 (New International Version)

<sup>11</sup>"You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they were created  
and have their being."

Furthermore, God created us with a mind capable of communicating with Him and thinking like He thinks.

Prayer is one of the ways of communicating with God – to seek divine help in time of need.

Nevertheless, Adam's body was a reflection of God insofar as he was created in perfect health, and was not subject to death.

Let me quote, the Internet, in reference to this subject, "Part of being made in God's image is that Adam had the capacity to make free choices. Sadly, he made an evil choice to rebel against his Creator. In so doing, Adam stained (blemished) the image of God within himself, and he passed that damaged likeness on to all his descendants." I quoted, the Internet, <http://gotquestions.org>

Let's read an affirmation Scripture...

Romans 5:12 (New International Version)

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

Nevertheless, today, we still bear the image of God, but we also bear the scars of sin. Mentally, morally, socially and physically, we show the effects of sin, because of our sinful nature.

Morally, we were created in righteousness and perfect innocence, a reflection of God's holiness. We were also created for fellowship, which is a reflection of God's triune nature; that is, God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and His love. One of the reasons of God's provision of a female companion for Adam was his lonely solitude; all he had was the presence of the beasts.

WHAT CAN WE DO WITHOUT OUR FEMALE SPOUSE? Going berserk! We must remember, "behind a good man is always a good woman."

However, God made the woman from the rib of Adam, and she is recognized as Adam stated, "bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh, " which is symbolized and sealed in the singular commitments of marriage. In this we see the true purpose for marriage.

## II. The provisions God gave them in the garden.

In the beginning man was given authority, but with responsibility. Our Father placed Adam and Eve in this beautiful and fruitful Garden; it was the source of life, provided abundantly to man's life, which was a safe place, where he would protect them.

Created in righteousness, conformed to God's purpose, holy and good, Adam and Eve lived in harmony with both God and nature in the Garden of Eden.

However, Adam and Eve chose sadly to believe the lie of Satan, who suggested that God was withholding the good from them by commanding them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

When they disobeyed God's command, thinking that would improve their capacity – their knowledge, they acted as if God was selfish and unloving. In that act, therefore, they violated the very purpose of their creation. For that reason, man is condemned to strenuous labor, in order to make a living as...

### Genesis 3:19 (New International Version)

<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow  
you will eat your food  
until you return to the ground,  
since from it you were taken;  
for dust you are  
and to dust you will return."

My question is this, "What ought a man to be? "

Biblically, a man is - what he ought to be - when he does what the Lord God commands him to do.

One of God's commandments is the foundation of love...The Golden Rule:

### Mark 12:30-31 (New International Version)

<sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

<sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

My understanding is this, "Love to man - our neighbor, is dependent upon love to God, and love to God is proved by loving others; but while love is commanded as we stated above, its practice is wholly dependent upon God's love to us and His work in us. We need to love one another as a token of our love for our God. We must also remember God gave us His best (Christ Jesus) and we will never be satisfied and content, until we are giving our best to Him.

### Genesis 1:28 (New International Version)

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

The marriage relationship is a part of God's wise plan for our maturing, and the raising of children.

"Marriage is for the raising of children in harmony with the will of God. It is the physical and spiritual union of male and female. Thereafter, sex for men and women is not simply for the procreation of the species. It is to express physically, the union of the couple's souls. Therefore, children are a gift to us from God and are not to be destroyed either before or after birth. Remember this, "Our children are placed into our care by God, but they are not ours they are the Lord's." I quoted the Internet, [http://1dolphin.org/studynotes/man\\_nat.htm](http://1dolphin.org/studynotes/man_nat.htm)

### III. The promise of God's provision outside of the Garden

My brothers, God is our provider and our protector. He has a purpose for each of us according to his divine plan and his timing. He has given us a role and purpose in life, to rule and care for the creation of a loving, powerful and wise God.

I have been reading from John Wesley's Theology Today "The New Creation" by Runyon, and he stated, and I quote:

"By turning from God to seek "happiness independent of God...Adam threw not only himself, but likewise the whole creation, which was intimately connected with him, into disorder, misery, and death."

The author, further stated, "God's response to Adam's fall was to open the possibility for humanity to attain "more holiness and happiness on earth " than it would have been possible for humanity to attain, if Adam had not fallen."

You see, the loss of the original image of God is surpassed by the possibility of a new image restored by grace through grace...by being conformed to the image of Christ Jesus. Let's read...

### Romans 8:29 (New International Version)

<sup>29</sup> "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

God settled beforehand to grace and holiness as the path to heaven. He decreed by his divine authority that we should be conformed to the image of his Son. Therefore, whom He did ordain before hand, then He also called. And these brothers, it is an effectual call, a bidding call from self and earth to God through Christ, and heaven as our final destination.

You see, by God's grace we have been saved through faith as stated in...

### Ephesians 2:8-9 (New International Version)

<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.

Thereafter, holiness through Christ Jesus is the ticket, the passport to enter through the narrow bridge, which leads into heaven.

### **Conclusion**

We know things have spoiled God's wonderful creation; for example: like human greed, sin and hatred. Nevertheless, the events in the Garden show us how not to respond to temptation. On the other hand, Jesus' temptation in the wilderness gives us an example of the right way to respond. Amen!

Yet, God loved the world so much that He gave his only son to redeem and restore the world through faith.

[John 3:16 \(New International Version\)](#)

[16"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.](#)

For this reason, humanity is absolutely dependent upon God, and we must be kept from falling from moment to moment by his divine power and love. I know that without his divine grace, love and protection, we would all perish.

I assure you, brothers, the same God who was there in the beginning is the faithful, awesome God who will also be there at the end.

END

God still gives us choices, and we, too, often choose wrongly. However, these wrong choices may cause us pain, but they can help us learn and grow and make better decisions in the future. Living with consequences of our choices teaches us to think and choose more carefully. Yes, indeed! We all learned through our past mistakes, so we can help others.

Let's pray...

### WORKS CITED:

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Internet: [http://1dolphin.org/studynotes/man\\_nat.htm](http://1dolphin.org/studynotes/man_nat.htm)

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