

Made in the Image of God: What Does It Mean TO ME? (Genesis 1:26-28)

Genesis 1:26-28 – ²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. ²⁷ So God created man in His [own] image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Male and Female He Created Them

1. The primary purpose of gender is procreation (the bearing and raising of children).
2. Marriage (gender) is designed for two people and only two people.
3. Marriage (gender) can only be for two people of the opposite gender.
4. Marriage (gender) requires two which are similar yet different.
5. Marriage (gender) assumes the design and blessing of sex by God.
6. Marriage (gender) would assume a relationship between adults.
7. Marriage (gender) would be limited to human relationships.

"Let Us Make Man in Our Image": Mankind Is Special!

1. Mankind Is Similar to the Animals:
 - a. We are similar in design (= Common Designer)
 - b. We are similar in physical makeup (same chemical elements)
 - c. We were created on the same day
2. Mankind Is Different than the Animals:
 - a. Man is a completely separate step – We were not created at the same time as the animals.
 - b. We were not just announced, but God's was personally involved in creating each individual (cf. Genesis 2)
 - c. Our Creation Is Personal with God's "Let Us"
 - d. Earth Was Created for Mankind
 - e. Mankind Rules Over All of The Earth
3. Man is Created in the Image & Likeness of God!
 - a. The image of God is passed on – Gen 5:1-3
 - b. Sin marred the image of God, but did not remove it (Gen 9:6)
 - c. The Image Of God Sets Us Apart from the Animals – We Are Special!
 - i. Our value indicated by the penalty for murder (Genesis 9:6)
 - ii. Our value is indicated by the honorable speech required (James 3:9-10)

What Does It Mean to Be Created in the Image & Likeness of God?

1. **They Are Qualities that Are Unique in Creation** (No other creature or creation has them.)
2. **They Are Qualities that Were Given Immediately, Not Through Evolutionary Processes Over Time**
3. **They Are Qualities That Describe What We ARE, Not Something IN Us**
4. **They Are Qualities That Encompass Us as a Unit, Not a Single, Identifiable Characteristic** (All of Man, not Just Part)
5. **They Are Two Qualities** (Some see the terms as synonymous, describing the same thing in parallel.)
6. **They Are Two Qualities Reflected By Multiple Characteristics:**
 - 1) We Are Emotional [we can feel, experience]
 - 2) We Are Immortal [we, unlike animals, will live forever, either with Christ or without Him]
 - 3) We Are Moral [we know of right & wrong; conscience; we are responsible; able to choose]
 - 4) We Are Original [we can come up with new ideas; creativity]
 - 5) We Are Personal [we are not just a thing but a person, with self-awareness; consciousness]
 - 6) We Are Purposeful [we have meaning, mission, calling – we don't just exist and react – we plan and act]
 - 7) We Are Rational [we can think, reason, & decide; we desire to know]
 - 8) We Are Regal [we rule the earth]
 - 9) We Are Relational [we can inter-relate with others, and need to]
 - 10) We Are Spiritual [we can relate on an immaterial, eternal level, with God—a God-capacity; we worship]

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1. Possession – We Belong To God!

(Mark 12:13-17) ¹³ Then they sent to Him some of the Pharisees and the Herodians, to catch Him in *His* words. ¹⁴ When they had come, they said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁵ "Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?" But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, "Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see *it*." ¹⁶ So they brought *it*. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription *is* this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at Him.

2. Purpose – We Must Be Properly Related To God To Experience Full Humanity

(Eccl 12:13) ¹ Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them": ² While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain; ³ In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, And the strong men bow down; When the grinders cease because they are few, And those that look through the windows grow dim; ⁴ When the doors are shut in the streets, And the sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, And all the daughters of music are brought low; ⁵ Also they are afraid of height, And of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, The grasshopper is a burden, And desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets. ⁶ *Remember your Creator* before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well. ⁷ Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it. ⁸ "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "All *is* vanity." ⁹ And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out *and* set in order many proverbs. ¹⁰ The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and *what was* written *was* upright-- words of truth. ¹¹ The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd. ¹² And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books *there is* no end, and much study *is* wearisome to the flesh. ¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. ¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

3. Price – We Must Recognize the Value of Human Life

(Gen 9:5-6) ⁵ "Surely for your lifeblood I will demand *a reckoning*; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man." ⁶ "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

(James 3:8-10) ⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

4. Pattern – We Are to Pursue the Image of Jesus

(Rom 8:28-39) ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(1Jo 2:1-6) My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. ³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.