

## Message Two

### God Creating Man in His Own Image for His Expression

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:26-27; Col. 1:15; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29; Rev. 21:11

**I. God created man in His image to express Him and with His authority to represent Him; this was according to His purpose—Gen. 1:26-27; Eph. 3:11:**

- A. It is impossible for fallen human beings to fulfill the purpose for which God created them—Rom. 3:23; 1 John 3:4.
- B. We must proclaim the gospel of the glory of Christ and of the kingdom of God in order to bring fallen people back to God for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose—Eph. 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9.

**II. “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him”—Gen. 1:26a, 27a:**

- A. *Let Us make man* reveals that a council was held among the three of the God-head regarding the creation of man—v. 26a:
  - 1. The decision to create man was made in eternity past, indicating that the creation of man was for the eternal purpose of the Triune God—Eph. 3:9-11.
  - 2. God’s intention in creating man was to carry out His divine economy for the dispensing of Himself into man—1 Tim. 1:4; Rom. 8:11.
- B. God created man in His own image, according to His likeness—Gen. 1:26a:
  - 1. God’s image, referring to God’s inner being, is the expression of the inward essence of God’s attributes, the most prominent of which are love (1 John 4:8), light (1:5), holiness (Rev. 4:8), and righteousness (Jer. 23:6).
  - 2. God’s likeness, referring to God’s form (Phil. 2:6), is the expression of the essence and nature of God’s person.
  - 3. God’s image and God’s likeness should not be considered as two separate things—Gen. 1:26a:
    - a. Man’s inward virtues, created in man’s spirit, are copies of God’s attributes and are the means for man to express God’s attributes.
    - b. Man’s outward form, created as man’s body, is a copy of God’s form.
  - 4. God created man to be a duplication of Himself so that man may have the capacity to contain God and express Him:
    - a. All other living things were created “according to their kind” (vv. 11-12, 21, 24-25), but man was created according to God’s kind (cf. Acts 17:28-29a).
    - b. Since God and man are of the same kind, it is possible for man to be joined to God and to live together with Him in an organic union—John 15:5; Rom. 6:5; 11:17-24; 1 Cor. 6:17.

**III. God’s purpose in the creation of man in His image and according to His likeness is that man would receive Him as life and express Him in all His attributes—Gen. 1:26-27; 2:9:**

- A. God created man in His image and according to His likeness because His intention is to come into man and to be one with man—Eph. 3:17a.
- B. God created man in His own image so that through His economy man may receive His life and nature and thereby become His expression—1 Tim. 1:4; John 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:4; 2 Cor. 3:18.
- C. God created man in such a way that man has the capacity to contain God's love, light, righteousness, and holiness—1 John 4:8; 1:5; Eph. 4:24; 5:2, 8-9.
- D. Because we were created according to God's kind, our human virtues have the capacity to contain the divine attributes—2 Cor. 10:1; 11:10.
- E. For God to create man in His image means that God created man with the intention that man would become a duplicate of God, the reproduction of God, for His corporate expression; this reproduction makes God happy because it looks like Him, speaks like Him, and lives like Him—John 12:24; Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:10; 1 John 3:1-2.

**IV. In the Bible there is a mysterious thought concerning the relationship between God and man—Gen. 1:26; Ezek. 1:26; 1 John 3:2b; Rev. 4:3a; 21:11b:**

- A. God's desire is to become the same as man is and to make man the same as He is—1 John 3:2b.
- B. God's intention is to work Himself in Christ into us, making Himself the same as we are and making us the same as He is—Eph. 3:17a.
- C. God's economy is to make Himself man and to make us, His created beings, God so that He is God "man-ized" and we are man "God-ized"—John 1:14; Rom. 1:3-4.