

Question: Why do you think God made us? Did he create us so he would have someone to praise him?

The Bible teaches that God expected that “praise of his glory” would be the natural result of what he did for his people. He first gave them life. Then he redeemed them from a life of sin and gave them a new life and hope through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:11-14). From the beginning, our creator expected that all his creation would reflect upon his glory and desire to praise him. The psalmist invited angels and heavenly hosts, the sun, moon and stars all to join in praise of the Lord, “for at his command they were created” (Psalm 148:2-5). In the New Testament, we are commanded to “continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that openly profess his name” (Hebrews 13:15). As we come to truly know him and trust him, we cannot keep from praising his glory.

Although our Lord God is worthy of all the praise we can possibly give him and more, we should not conclude that he made us only in order to praise him. This sounds very selfish in nature. But God is love and godly love is not self-seeking (1 John 4:8,&16; 1 Corinthians 13:5). The unselfish nature of God’s love is best demonstrated in the coming of Jesus Christ into this world. We are told that although he was “in very nature God, [he] did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death-- even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:6-8).

Why did God make us? The answer is to be found in his loving nature. The eternal God has presented himself to us as both Father and Son. As Father and Son he knew the wonder of a perfect loving relationship in eternity before we were created. As a result, he wanted to share all the fullness of that love with others. Thus, he made us and our universe. He made us male and female and placed us in families that we might learn to love one another as well as love God. Families have been called by God into larger communities like the church where love should be extended to many others. Everything God has done in our world and in our lives has been

because of his great love.

However, to experience the fullness of God's great love we must love him in return. Although a parent may love all his children equally, the child who does not love the parent is never able to receive all the love that is available to him. The child must also give his love freely and not out of compulsion. Love that is not freely given is no love at all. Only when we learn to love God and to freely live in a glorious loving relationship with him can we experience all the fullness of God's boundless love.

The heavenly Father's love is so great that he is willing to do anything necessary to get our attention and love except force us to love him. He is even willing that we should sometimes face suffering and sorrow if that is what it takes to bring us to realize our need for him and to stop rejecting him (Hebrews 12:5-11). The greatest tragedy is not that there is suffering in our world. It is that so many precious lives are turning away from the heavenly Father and will miss out on the fullness of his eternal love. God created us out of his love and for his love and nothing less. A poet once wrote: "Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made; Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade; To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry, Nor could the scroll contain the whole though stretched from sky to sky."

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