



Man: God's crowning creation Lesson 3

Psalm 8:4-6 *New International Reader's Version (NIRV)*

- ⁴ *What are human beings that you think about them?
What is a son of man that you take care of him?*
- ⁵ *You have made them a little lower than the angels.
You placed on them a crown of glory and honor.*
- ⁶ *You made human beings rule over everything your hands created. You put everything under their control*

Man is a marvel to doctors and scientists! His complex physical makeup amazes all who study him. His is truly unique in his being. A careful study of the creation story recorded in Genesis 1 reveals that God created all things, but created only male and female in His image (Genesis 1:27) So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them..

There have been many definitions suggested for the word “**image**.” Some have said it means an outline of God. Others say it is like a shadow of God, while others refer to “image” as a likeness of God.

All of these point to the meaning of the word --- But its definition is more complex than these ideas suggest There are several passages of Scripture that offer us a combination of qualities included in the meaning of the phrase “**in the image of God**”

Three of them are:

1. **Ecclesiastes 7:29. *This only have I found: God created mankind upright, but they have gone in search of many schemes.***
In this passage the writer tells us that after much investigation and evaluation of men, he concludes that God created them with an original righteousness. This simply means that man possessed the capacity to do right in relationship to God The writer then goes on to say, however, that man chose to do otherwise.
2. Image of God: **Ephesians 4:24. *and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.***
This passage adds a few more strokes to our picture of the word “image.” Here Paul tells us that man originally was created with a capacity for truth and holiness. Man could know, recognize, and respond to truth. God gave him that privilege. Man also had the ability to live a holy or blameless life; he could do it. It was a reality at the beginning.
3. **Colossians 3:8-10. ⁸ *But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its***

practices¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

In this passage Paul is stating his case for the “new” man that emerges in Christ, who has restored to man the original state of his pure relationship with God. In other words, God created man to respond to a special relationship or fellowship with him.

Now, when we put all three of those pieces together, we can see that the phrase “in the image of God” It carries the connotation of man having been created with the capacity to live a righteous life as God does.

But man decided to do it his own way. Man was also created with the capacity to respond to God in a manner of holiness and truth as God showed it to him.

Lastly, God created man to love and respond to love (as God responds to love) and thereby maintain a true Give-and-Take Relationship. Yes, when God created man, he gave man the capacity to be all God wanted him to be---a personality like God himself.

We must go one step further if we are to see why man fell away from God and thus spoiled the image of his likeness to God. The answer is clearly laid out for us in

Genesis 2:15-17 ¹⁵ *The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.* ¹⁶ *And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;* ¹⁷ *but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”*

- **Did you catch it?**

God gave man free will! He allowed man the privilege to make choices between Right and Wrong .

This is the greatest power a person has—the power of choice. He can choose between Good and Evil, Heaven and Hell, life or death. He Man has the power --- God does not want robots as his children.

He wants his children to respond to their capabilities and maintain a loving relationship with him. Man can choose whether he wants to relate to God in this way or not.

What did man do with this great power?

The Bible records that answer for us in **Genesis 3:1-12**.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be

opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

----- **Man**, in all of his newness and with all his potential and capacities to be God like, squandered his great power by falling victim—by choice—to the temptation of the devil. He chose to rebel against God through disobedience. Almost all sin carries with it this same progression of rebellion through disobedience by Choice.

- The fallen state of Man went from Bad to Worse, as we find recorded for us on almost every page of the Bible.

One would Think that God would be ready to Give up on man. Not so! In fact, just the opposite. He once again commenced his love, but this time through his Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

It is through this relationship that God continues to call his people back to himself. It is not Gods desire that any be lost or separated from Him

(2 Peter 3:9). ⁹ *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

The call to return to God comes to man from many different directions:

1. First of all, God calls men through his Written Word, the **Bible**.
2. He also calls through Ministers as they preach and teach the word of God.
3. He often calls men and women to **Pray** for friends and acquaintances.
4. Music is sometimes is the way through which a person is touched for God.

Yes, God uses many ways and means to call us back to him and to the renewed relationship we can have through Jesus Christ.

God also calls us to specific levels of response to him and his purpose.

The most important relationships to which we are called is:

Salvation through Jesus Christ:

(1 Thessalonians

5:9) *For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

It is God's will that men and women should be rescued from the life of sin, destruction, and eternal separation (**John 3:18, 36**) ¹⁸ *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son..* **THAT WAS 18 Now jump to**

^{v 36}Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

Let's take a look at 5 points that Jesus is the way...

1. **Back to holiness (1Thessalonians 4:7-8).** ⁷ For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.
 - To be sanctified simply means to be set aside for a special and different purpose, a holy and "above normal" purpose. This special purpose is see most clearly in our witness for God.
2. **To an attitude of peace (1 Corinthians 7:15).** ¹⁵ *But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.*
 - This means primarily an emotional stability. It is an assurance that, regardless of what the future holds, we know who holds it.
3. **To a unique relationship in grace (Galatians 1:6-7)** ⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷ which is really no gospel at all.
 - Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ..

The uniqueness is in the fact that grace is a gift from God. We cannot buy it, win it, or earn it. It is God's unmerited love for his children.

4. **To fellowship in Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9)** *God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord..*
 - As children of God we need not crawl through life on our hand and knees. We are offered daily fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. **To share the kingdom** of God and the glory of Christ as children of God through Jesus Christ (**1 Thessalonians 2:10-12**) ¹⁰ *You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we*

were among you who believed. ¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory..

- The request is to come and enjoy the very presence of God the father and Jesus Christ the Son for all eternity.

Man is definitely God's crowning act of creation.

He is "packed with all the essential possibilities for becoming the person he was created to be, with all of the privileges and responsibilities of faithfulness.

He has the power to choose how he will respond to God's call.

But along with the freedom of choice comes and accountability for how he utilizes this tremendous power.