

## Man: God's crowning creation: Lesson 3

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

<sup>4</sup> *What are human beings that you think about them?*

*What is a son of man that you take care of him?*

<sup>5</sup> *You have made them a little lower than the angels.*

*You placed on them a crown of glory and honor.*

<sup>6</sup> *You made human beings rule over everything your hands created. You put everything under their control*

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.”*
2. **Ephesians 4:24.** *and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*
3. **Colossians 3:8-10.** <sup>8</sup> *But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

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**

<sup>15</sup> *The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>v16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> 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!
- **What did man do with this great power?**

Open your Bible to **Genesis 3:1-12**

It is not God's desire that any be lost or separated from Him.

**(2 Peter 3:9).** *<sup>9</sup> 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 the way through which a person is touched for God.

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.*

**(John 3:18, 36)** *<sup>18</sup> 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* <sup>v</sup> *<sup>36</sup> 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. To Holiness ( 1Thessalonians 4:7-8)
2. To an attitude of Peace (1 Corinthians 7:15)
3. To a unique relationship in Grace (Galatians 1:6-7)
4. To fellowship in Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9)
5. To share the kingdom of God and the Glory of Christ as children of God through Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 2:10-12)