

"In the Image of God"

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss what it means to be made in the image of God.
2. Genesis chapter one tells about the creation of all things including man. Gen. 1:1
 - a. On day six God created all the land animals and then He made Us.
 - b. Gen. 1: 26-27 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."
3. We will notice three things from this text:
 - a. The plural pronouns "us" and "our"
 - b. The verbs used for creation
 - c. The meaning of "image and likeness"

Discussion

I. "Let us make man in our image"

- A. Notice the use of the plural pronouns "us" and "our"
- B. First, some allege that God was speaking to angels.
 1. This theory has no biblical support.
 2. Nowhere is it indicated that God and angels share the same nature, or that humans are in the image of angels (cf. "his" image v. 27).

C. Another view is that it is an indication of the Trinity

1. There was a plurality in the Divine Godhead.
2. There is one God but three personalities
 - a. Matt. 28:19 "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of Holy Spirit"
 - b. Transfiguration in Matt. 3:16-17
 - (1) Jesus was being baptized by John the Baptist
 - (2) The Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove
 - (3) God spoke from heaven saying: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

D. In Colossians 1:16 we see that Christ was involved in the creation: "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:"

E. John 1:1-5 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." Jesus was with God in the creation of all things. V.13

F. So the plural pronouns in Gen. 1 is simply the fact that one person of the Godhead is addressing another.

II. CREATE

- A. There are three words used in describing the origin of man
1. Create - v. 27
 2. Make - v. 26
 3. Form - 2:7
 4. There is a little difference in the meanings of the words but they are used interchangeably.
 5. One writer said that the word first word means to create, the second word means to form and the third word means to Finish.
- B. The bible does not agree with the theory of evolution.
1. Evolution says that man is an accident and he evolved from lower forms.
 2. The Bible declares that God is our maker
 - a. Job 4:17 "Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?"
 - b. Psalms 95:6 "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker."
 3. As a potter forms a work of art from clay, so Jehovah "formed" the human body from the dust of the Ground - Gen. 2:7
 4. David Says that God made us: "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."
Psalms 139:14

III. IMAGE - LIKENESS

- A. Man is created in the image and likeness of God.
1. These two terms are about the same.
 2. The human family is separate from the animals.
 3. To say that man is made in the "image" of God does not mean that we have a physical likeness to God, because God is a "spirit" not physical. Jn. 4:24
 4. But there are certain traits that we have which shows that humans are different than all other forms of biological life because we are made in the image of God.
- B. Man is a Reasoning Creature.
1. Animals operate by instinct, and they react. People "think."
 2. And just as there are laws that regulate all spheres of nature, e.g., astronomy, physics, biology, etc., so there are laws that regulate human thought.
 - a. God said to Israel: "Come let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18).
 - b. In his teaching, Paul "reasoned" with those who would listen
 - (1) Acts 17:2 "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,"
 - (2) Acts 17:17 "Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him."
 - (3) Acts 18:4, 19 "And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks."

(4) Acts 24:25 "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."

3. God created us with the ability to think and reason, but many have not developed that skill.

C. Man has the ability to Choose

1. We can make choices to honor the Lord with obedience instead of disobedience.
2. Joshua 24:15 "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
3. Calvinism teaches that we are predestined to heaven or hell
 - a. It teaches that we do not have a choice in the matter.
 - b. Whatever happens is not by our choice in life
4. But the Bible affirms that we do have a choice
 - a. Matthew 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"
 - b. Revelation 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

D. Humans have a sense of morality

1. We understand and recognize that there is a difference between right and wrong
2. Man has a conscience
3. C.S. Lewis began his book, *Mere Christianity*, with what he called "The Law of Human Nature."
 - a. He contended that human speech is littered with daily phrases which appeal to a universal consciousness of moral principle.
 - b. Statements like: "wait your turn," "don't pick on that poor soul," or "you have more than enough; you should share," reveal a moral sensitivity, a sense of "oughtness," or else the opposite.
4. Paul appealed to this principle when he argued that even the ancient Gentiles, who had no written revelation from God, either were condemned or excused by a certain set of moral imperatives - Romans 2:14-15 . " For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;"

CONCLUSION

1. The plurals "us" and "our" - That He made man in his image and after his likeness.
 - a. This does not imply that God is a physical being.
 - b. He is not (Hosea 11:9; Matthew 16:17; John 4:24).
 - c. Nor does it suggest that man partakes of the nature of deity.
 - d. It does imply, though, that man is clearly distinct from the animal kingdom.
 - e. He possesses certain traits similar to his Creator.
 - (1) He is a reasoning creature
 - (2) He has a sense of morality
 - (3) He has the ability to choose
2. Man was given dominion over the other forms of earth life.
 - a. This implies the responsibility to conquer and rightly use the planet.
 - b. Man has been appointed as a steward for the management of God's property, and, ultimately, he will give account for his stewardship (cf. Luke 16:2).
3. It is an honor that God has bestowed upon mankind to have made us in "His Image"
4. We have the opportunity and the ability to choose to Obey Him because we can choose to love Him.
5. We are not robots or machines but humans with the ability to choose
6. Have you made the choice to serve God?

Sources consulted

1. Christian Courier - Created in the Image of God - By Wayne Jackson -
2. Christian Courier - The Creation Week—Reflections on Genesis By Wayne Jackson
www.christiancourier.com/articles/1519-created-in-the-image-of-god

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday evening - August 1, 2010
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