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Jesus, the Eternal Word

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7 Man



Search the Scriptures

Read Genesis 1:26, 27.

Use *Strong's Concordance* to find and study the meanings for *image* and *likeness* as they are used in Genesis 1:26, 27. Write *image* or *likeness* beside the correct definitions.

- _____ a model; shaped like
- _____ representation

Created in His Likeness

On the sixth day of Creation, God made a unique couple to crown His Creation and bring glory to Him. He stamped them with His image and likeness. He designed them for fellowship with Him. They would exercise **dominion** over the earth and take care of the beautiful planet God had created. God saw that everything He had made was very good, and He was deeply satisfied.

What does being in God's image and likeness mean? We know it can't be only that we have a face and hands; God also made us spiritual beings. How are we like God?

"Let us make man in our image,
after our likeness."

Genesis 1:26

God is Spirit. He gave us each a spirit. We are more than physical bodies. When people choose integrity over money or value inner virtue over physical attractiveness, they show the image of God, who is Spirit.

God is holy. He made man holy and perfect. He made Adam and Eve flawless. They did not have a selfish, rebellious nature. When our lives are pure, we show the image of the Holy One.

God is almighty. God, who does as He wishes, also gave us free will to choose as we want. We have freedom to exercise self-control and to make choices for ourselves. Man's ability to choose between

obedience and disobedience or between honesty and cheating shows the image of God.

God is eternal. God, the I Am who always is, created us as immortal beings—once born, we will live forever. When people consider the long-term effects of a decision and deny themselves a **temporal** pleasure in favor of gaining eternal joy, they show the likeness of the eternal One.

God is three Persons. God, who fellowships with Himself, made us deeply social creatures. He gave us a desire for communication and fellowship. When you hug your mother or go to church or send a message to someone, you show the likeness of the Triune God.

God created us in His likeness to fellowship with Him. He yearned for creatures with whom He could share mutual love and friendship. When this happens, we spend time with each other; in fact, we *live* with each other. We learn to know Him, His will, His ways, and His thoughts. We become increasingly like Him. God desires this kind of fellowship far more than we can grasp.

Words to Know

dominion: rule; power

temporal (tem' pə rəl): relating only to time and the earth as opposed to having eternal value

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

3. What made the human couple unique in God's creation?
- They looked different from any other living creatures.
 - They were perfect and holy.
 - They were created to be social creatures.
 - They were made in God's own image.

-  4. Read James 3:8-10. *Think!* How should the fact that all human beings are "made after the similitude [likeness] of God" affect our relationships with others?
- We should realize that no man's tongue can be tamed.
 - We should recognize that no one can help being evil.
 - We should treat them with respect, just as we respect God.
 - We should use only blessing or cursing with each person we meet.

Match the ways that God created man in His likeness.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 5. ____ God is a Spirit. | a. Man has a never-dying soul. |
| 6. ____ God is holy. | b. Man has a spirit. |
| 7. ____ God is almighty. | c. The original man was created holy and perfect. |
| 8. ____ God is eternal. | d. Man yearns for love and friendship with others. |
| 9. ____ God is three Persons. | e. Man can choose for himself how to live his life. |

Application for Today

Answer the questions.

- △ 10. God gave man dominion over the rest of Creation. In your environment, how have you observed man exercising dominion over the rest of Creation?

- △ 11. Read Genesis 2:15. God gave Adam the responsibility of caring for the Garden of Eden. How have you observed man exercising care of the earth in your own environment?

Created for Fellowship

- ① God desires fellowship with the human beings He created. To help you understand the word *fellowship*, study the following definitions.

Verb: to join; to communicate with; to associate with; to share in company with

Noun: partnership; participation; social connection

 Read Psalm 8:3, 4. Answer the question.

12. What is the Psalmist's attitude toward the idea that God "visits" man or wants to communicate with him?

 Read Isaiah 57:15. Answer the question.

13. With whom will God dwell?

Does God Need Man?

The Triune God is entirely complete within Himself, lacking nothing, enjoying sweet fellowship with Himself. And yet...

- He created man in His own likeness, capable of love and fellowship.
- He desires man's love and fellowship.

How astounding to consider that God so desired something that He created a special being to fulfill that desire! God's design of and heart for man strongly hint at this truth about the self-sufficient Almighty. No, God does not *need* man, but He does *desire* us.

Created to Glorify

God also created us for His glory. *We glorify Him* when we honor Him for who He is and what He does. We also glorify Him when our lives accurately represent Him. *He glories in us* when He sees Himself in us.

He delights in us when He sees us fulfilling His purposes and living according to His design.

Man—in God's own image—the likeness of the Creator Himself.

 Read Psalm 95:6, Ecclesiastes 12:13, and Isaiah 43:7.

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

14. For what purpose did God create man and woman?
- So He could save man from his tendency to sin.
 - To glorify Himself and receive man's honor, obedience, and worship.
 - So He would have a copy of Himself to adore.
 - To have someone on whom to bestow His love and blessings.
-  15. Which statement best describes God's relationship with mankind?
- God is complete without mankind, but He deeply desires fellowship with us.
 - God needs our worship and adoration in order to feel completely fulfilled.
 - God derives great satisfaction from His dominion over men and women.
 - God needed fellowship so much that He created man to satisfy that need.

Vocabulary Focus

Use these words to complete the sentences.

dominion temporal fellowship

16. God gave man _____ over the animals.
17. Our _____ with others is sweet when we show respect for each other.
18. Obtaining daily food is a _____ occupation that will not be necessary in Heaven.

Memory Work Focus

Complete the memory selection for this section, including the reference.

19. In _____ was _____ the love of _____ toward _____, because that
 God _____ his _____ Son _____ the _____, that we
 _____ live _____. 1 _____ 4:9

Review

Circle *T* if the statement is true and *F* if it is false. If the statement is false, correct the italicized part.

20. **T** **F** God showed His love for us by *sending Jesus into the world*.
 21. **T** **F** *As one of the persons of the Creator*, Jesus created the heavens and the earth.
 22. **T** **F** Jesus *did not exist* before Creation.

Complete the sentences.

23. God is the _____ of everything outside of Himself.
 24. God created everything that had a _____.
 25. God's creation was _____ and _____.
 26. God speaks to us today through His Son _____.
 27. Creation cannot be proven; we accept it by _____.

Match each word with its synonym.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 28. ____ pleasure | a. revealed |
| 29. ____ Word | b. Jesus |
| 30. ____ manifested | c. will |