

What is Man?

- On a clear night, considering the vastness of God's creation, it is easy to follow David's reasoning:
- *When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? Ps 8:3-4*
- What is our role in this creation? In the immensity of the sun, moon, and stars and the complexity of insects, plants, fish, birds and animals, what did God intend for us?

In God's Image & Likeness

- The simple answer:
- We are exactly what God said we would be:
- *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*
- Because we are in "*the image of God,*" we share an eternal soul and have fellowship in God's abilities to think, feel, plan, and remember.

In God's Image

- We are also in a unique position over the material creation. Being “in his image” also includes:
- *For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, Ps 8:5-6*

In God's Image

- God created the immensity and complexity of the universe with the goal of allowing man's creative genius and human power to rule.
- The power of oil, natural gas, electricity and the atom were all created within our reach to be under our control.
- Chemicals, metals and the physics to bend them to our will were also created "*under our feet*" so we could *subdue and have dominion*.

In His Image

- Did Adam's sin change this?
- Ps 8 was written after Adam's sin!
- Clearly much of our dominion changed after sin entered and death through sin (Rom 5).
- But we cannot deny the facts of Ps 8.
- Even after sin it was God's intent that man take the tools and materials he created and take dominion in the material realm.
- The Great Debate through the centuries:
- Did this dominion include our spiritual man?

In His Image

- When sin entered the world, God began His eternal purpose to save us (Eph. 1:3-5; 3:9-11).
- Is this different or consistent with His creation?
- Do the same opportunities exist for dominion over sin and righteousness as over the heavens and the earth?
- Did God plan through Jesus that spiritual power and spiritual materials be created for us to take dominion just as he did in the material creation?
- Was it God's intent that we be completely dependent on him or that we use Christ's blood, the power of God's word and the power of prayer to take back what we lost in the fall?

In His Image

- Multitudes today contend that salvation is by grace and thus differs from the material dominion.
- Grace makes our role in salvation passive. We can do nothing, only wait for God to do it for us.
- Yet the entire premise is completely false.
- Name one thing in the material creation that is not just as much a gift of grace as Jesus' blood
- The entire material creation was a gift of grace!
- The entire spiritual creation was a gift of grace!
- All in either realm that is an act of unmerited favor.

In His Image

- God did not create man until the last act of the material creation.
- Man had no role in the creation.
- Yet after it was completed God gave it to man to take dominion and subdue.
- It gives God when we take dominion over electricity, chemistry, physics, and oil.
- Does this change in the spiritual creation?

In His Image

- Any difference between the grace God through the Word gave in the material creation Jn 1:1-3 and the grace God through the word gave in redemption?
- Just as His divine power created the heavens and the earth, that same divine power brought salvation
- *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 2 Peter 1:2-4*

In His Image

- There is no question God gave Adam and Eve precious and exceeding great promises in the Garden, he does the same in redemption.
- *by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2 Peter 1:4*
- By the grace of God, we use the power of the blood and the promise of salvation and “through these” “become partakers of the divine nature.” We take this dominion.

In His image

- God's plan to save man follows exactly the same principles as the material creation
- By grace God gave all things needed. II Pet 1:3-4
- Without our effort these have no value. 1:5
- We have to add on our part to take dominion 1:5-8
- If we do these things we have dominion,
- If we sit waiting, we are blind, fruitless and idle.
- The material and spiritual realms are the same!
- Our dominion is based on our effort in both!

In His Image

- This does not minimize God's grace, only shows it takes our faith and effort to gain them!
- Wisdom, ask in faith or receive nothing. Jas 1:5-8
- Do not have because you do not ask. Jas 4:2-3
- Gospel- power of God to those who believe Rom 1:16
- God gave only begotten son that whoever believes will not perish. Jn 3:16
- Ask, seek knock; given, find, opened, Mt 7:7-11

In His Image = Dominion

- This is why parables are so effective!
- Dominion in the material realm is given when the materials and energy sources are mastered!
- Dominion in the spiritual realm is given when the materials and energy sources are mastered!
- Saved: Hear believe, repent, confess, baptized.
- Forgiveness: Repentance and confession.
- If we want full dominion, we only have to take it!
- This is the great power God gave us in the creation and in the gospel!

Flows Just Like Genesis

- Waste and Void

- *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Eph 2:1-3*

Flows Just Like Genesis

- God said ... and it was
- *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus Eph. 2:4-7*

Flows Just Like Genesis

- *. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.*
- *Let us make man in our image and give dominion:*
- *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph 2:4-10*