

What is Man?

- On a clear night, looking 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*
- How would we answer that question? We know so much more than David.
- 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 to David's question:
- *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. So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Gen 1:26-28*

In God's Image & Likeness

- The simple answer to David's question:
- At that moment, our value and importance to God was far more than the sun moon and stars that David saw.
- The material creation was of little value to God.
- Just the container for man to live in and take dominion.
- God is a Spirit living in an eternal spiritual realm.
- This creation was material.
- We were the only thing spiritual and eternal thing in this creation
- Only men and women are in His image & likeness

What is “*Image and Likeness*” of God

- Never really defined in one verse. As we review the Scriptures and assess the difference between man and the animals, it becomes clear
- We are eternal and have eternal life.
- We had intellect to think
- We had the ability to remember the past
- We had the ability to plan for the future.
- We had emotions to make commitments.
- We had dominion over the entire creation.
- These are things God gave man in His image

In God's Image

- We are a unique and special part of the material creation. Being “*in His image*” is what made us different than the entire material creation.
- **There is no doubt about this.**
- *But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 2 Peter 3:5-7*
- Creation will end but we in God's image will remain

In God's Image

- *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*

The Greatest Testament

- What God was willing to do to keep us with Him.
- *must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Jn 3:14-17*
- *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Rom 5:8-11*

“Mindful of Him”

- *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ... 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Jn. 1:1-5*
- *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Phil. 2:5-8*

The Depth of our Relationship

- *Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, 5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Ps 103:1-5*
- This is how mindful God has been even after we sinned.

The Depth of our Relationship

- *The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. 9 He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. Ps 103:8-14*

The Fulness of God being Mindful

- *28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Rom 8:28-30*

The Fulness of God being Mindful

- *31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Rom 8:31-35*

The Fulness of God being Mindful

- *36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 8:36-39*