

Week 4 - August 23 - 29

“the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living soul.” (Genesis 2:7)

The Life of Man—the Breath of God

So for this final week, let's look at a second reference to the creation of man; this verse in Genesis 2, shows that man was created differently than the sun, moon and stars, or the fish and birds. This verse says that God actually formed man from dirt; that's exactly what Adam means in Hebrew—"dirt or dust." It also means man. This verse is a constant reminder to us that we are just dust. Many a funeral service repines "dust to dust and ashes to ashes." That's what these bodies that we have are.

But the greater truth of this verse is that God breathed into man, Adam, and he came alive. In other words, man without God, is essentially dead. The body may be alive, but the soul is dead. God is still breathing into us today. If we are in Christ, we are told by the Apostle Paul that the Holy Spirit of God, which in the Greek can actually be interpreted the Holy Breath or Wind of God, is living in us. The third Person of the trinity is the life of our soul within us, reconciling us to God and once again giving us life. Paul says in Ephesians 2:1 that because of sin we were dead in trespasses and sins, but by Christ, God has made us alive. That breath of life flows again into our dead souls, and like Adam gives us life. Do you have God's breath, God's Spirit in you giving you life?

QUESTION for THOUGHT:

- 1) What are some changes from before when you were dead in sins to when you are now alive in Christ?

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

By Charles Wesley

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest:
take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

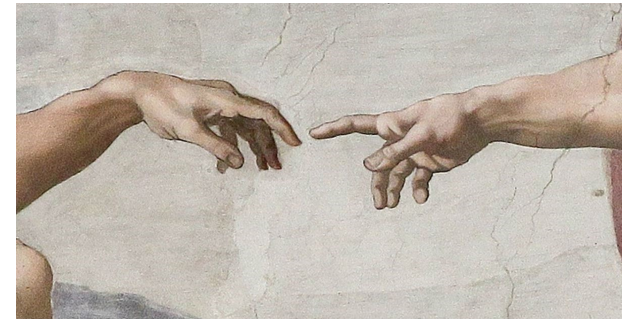
Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be:
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
'til in heav'n we take our place,
'til we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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August Memory Verse Song & Devotions

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27



Week 1 - August 2 - 8

“So God created man”

The Purpose for Man: Dominion

This first phrase of the memory verse is introduced with the small causative conjunction “so.” In verse 26, God gives His desire for this man that He is about to create: “have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

The purpose of God creating man was of course to bring Him glory as the old catechism states, but we do this through having dominion or control over the created earth. This was not that difficult a task before Genesis 3 and the first sin entering the world, but when man sinned, chaos, death, thorns and weeds, etc. all entered to complicate the dominion desire and mandate that we have from God. Now, because of sin, weeds infest the crops, animals fear and attack their masters, and our original purpose has been made impossible without the grace and help of God.

Though dominion of creation is exponentially more difficult now than at creation because of sin, it is still God’s desire that humans have dominion over creation, meaning they care for, control, utilize, improve when possible, this created world with which God has blessed us.

QUESTIONS for FAMILY THOUGHT:

- 1) How can we care for creation in our home?
- 2) Is it right or wrong to care for creation; are there limits to that?

(I.E. What’s more important: human or tree?)



Week 2 - August 9 - 15

“in the image of God”

The Preeminence of Man: Imago Dei

Perhaps you have heard the Latin phrase “imago dei” before; it simply means “image of God.” This is what our memory verse tells us about God creating man—that He created man in His (God’s) own image. This is such a full and complicated thought, yet worth spending a lifetime to contemplate.

Being in God’s image means that we are eternal creatures. From the time you began life in your mother’s womb, you began an unending existence. According to Scripture, all humans will live for eternity either in heaven or hell depending on their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Being in God’s image means that we are moral creatures. We know what is right and wrong, because that moral code is God’s code and being in His image we have it written into us. Sin has marred every human’s ability to keep the moral code, but we are still created with a knowledge of it.

Being in God’s image means that we are God’s image bearers in this life; we are to be what God would be to the created world in leadership, kindness, love, etc. just as the Church is to bear the image of Christ to the world in His absence now.

QUESTIONS for THOUGHT:

- 1) What are some other implications of you being created in the image of God?
- 2) How should this imago dei truth impact your relationship with others?
- 3) How does it affect your thoughts on every life, even of the unborn baby?

Week 3 - August 16 - 22

“male and female created he them.”

The Differentiation of Man: Man and Woman

The creation account makes this very clear, as do a number of other passages throughout the Scriptures including quotations from our Lord Jesus, that God created a man and a woman. They were two distinct creatures, made for one another, yet made for completely different roles.

The creation account shows the distinction in diversity in the humankind between man and woman. Neither man nor woman is better than the other, because God created them both in his image for specific roles.

In our modern day, there is a great discontentment with this distinction that God has created between man and woman and between the roles that God has created them to fulfill. Often women want to fulfill the roles of men in authority. Men will try to fulfill the roles of women at times in the family and home. Both roles are abominated in the unnatural act of homosexuality; the Bible says it clearly in Romans 1 - men seeking men and women seeking women as is not natural, meaning not as God created them.

It is an affront to God’s creative prerogative every time humanity attacks the roles of man and woman whether they be societal, sexual, or spiritual roles.

QUESTIONS for THOUGHT:

- 1) What are your roles as husband, wife, children, in the home, church, and society?
- 2) What are some consequences you have noticed of breaking the roles that God has established for man and woman?