

**Systematic Theology 1, Creation, Part 2 (Creation of Man) 1/29/23**

*This class covers how God created man in his image with a body and soul. Furthermore, it explains why God created male and female (marriage and sexuality), and how they are different, fixed, ontological, and embodied realities that complement one another.*

Q: What are some of the features that distinguish the creation of man from the creation of everything else? Before answering that question, let's first ask a related one: **Is it appropriate and wise to refer to the creation of "MAN" when speaking of the human race as opposed to using gender neutral terms such as "persons, humanity, human beings, or humankind"?** In other words, "Is it sexist, a discriminating and prejudicial manner of speaking, to refer to the creation of MAN rather than referring to the creation of humanity?"

**ANSWER:** Professing believers can be guilty of sexism in how they speak of the identity and roles of males and females. Some Christians have over-reacted to feminism by becoming unduly preoccupied with male headship. But the Bible itself encourages us in the use of MAN as a generic term for the human race.

**Gen. 5:1-2** *This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup> Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and **named them Man** when they were created.*

Sometimes, the Bible uses the term "man" in distinction from woman, as in **Gen. 2:22 and 25:** *And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> ... <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.* In **Gen. 5:2,** however, the Lord NAMES both male and female "MAN". Now, let's go back to our earlier question.

**Q: What are some of the features that distinguish the creation of man from the creation of everything else?**

1. **Man's creation is the final, climactic act of creation, the last creative event on the sixth day of the creation week.** Everything else that the Lord created was preparatory to the creation of man. Gen. 1:23-27
2. **Up to the creation of man, the divine spoken formula is, "LET THERE BE..." With man, the Lord does not say, "Let there be man"; rather, he says, "Let us make man".** The wording suggests a heightened measure of personal involvement in the triune

God's creating of human beings. The Lord speaks man into existence, like the rest of creation, but he also fashions the man and the woman into being in a way that distinguishes them from the rest of his created works.

**<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be..."**

**<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be..."**

**<sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be..."**

**<sup>26</sup> Then 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 birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."**

**<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.**

**Gen. 2:7, 21-22** ...then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

**<sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.**

**Ps. 139:13-15** For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**APPLICATION Q: What are some of the practical implications of these verses? A: 1)**

Every human has significance and worth; 2) Our soma-type, our basic personality, our type of hair, etc. is what it is, because the great God of heaven and earth made me in just this way.

3. **Man alone is described as being made "in our image, after our likeness"**. Unlike any other earthly creature, man alone is a PERSONAL being. And unlike the heavenly angelic creatures, man alone is a HUMAN being, constituted of both spirit AND body. As such, he is a finite replica of God, a living statue, a tangible representation of the infinite Spirit who is God. He is not God. But he is the likeness of God.

4. **Man alone is given dominion over the rest of God's created works on earth.** This point is emphasized in both the creation accounts of Gen. 1 & 2, and also in later Scriptures' commentary on the uniqueness of man in God's creation.

**Gen. 1:26-28** Then 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 birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth **and subdue it, and have dominion over** the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

**Gen. 2:19-20** Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens **and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.** <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

**Ps. 8** O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. <sup>2</sup> Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. <sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? <sup>5</sup> Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup> **You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,** <sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup> the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. <sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**APPLICATION Q:** What is a practical implication of this truth when we consider the extraordinary efforts that have been made to preserve the lives of certain animals, for ex. whales? **A:** Animals do not share an equal, inherent right to exist alongside of humans. They were made for humans. People are called to have dominion over animals. It's wicked that our culture insists on killing unborn humans while at the same time insisting that certain animals should be zealously and legally protected. There is a place of protecting animals on the verge of extinction, but it's wrong to elevate animals while minimizing those uniquely created in the image of God.

5. Only the creation of man is given special attention in Gen. 2, which provides a more detailed account of the Lord's creative activity on the 6<sup>th</sup> day, activity which climaxed in the creation of man and woman.

**Q: Through some slight but definitive brush strokes, the narrative of ch. 2 (& 3) point to differences between the normative vocation of the man and that of the woman. How so?**

**Gen. 2:5-9** *When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground,<sup>6</sup> and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—<sup>7</sup> then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.<sup>8</sup> And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

**V15** *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

**V18** *Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."*

**Vs. 20-22** *The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.<sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.<sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.*

**A:** 1) The field or ground was incomplete without man. Certain plants could not be cultivated without man's presence. Adam was made from the ground (dust), and then the Lord took him and placed him in the garden, his sphere of labor. Later, when Adam sinned, God would punish him in relation to his work with the soil.

2) The man was incomplete without woman. He could not accomplish his mission without her. Woman was made from the man, and then the Lord took her and brought her to him, her sphere of labor. When she sinned, the Lord would punish her in relation to marriage and child-bearing.

These observations can be taken too far. In a fallen world, some women never marry or bear children. Women have always worked hard in ways that go beyond mere marriage and child-bearing. Like the man, they have plowed, seeded, weeded, harvested, processed, sold, etc. **But at creation, the woman was made for the man in a way that the man was not made for the woman.** The NT reflects upon that reality in speaking of proper behavior for women in the church.

**1Co 11:7-10** *For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. <sup>8</sup> For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. <sup>9</sup> Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. <sup>10</sup> That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.*

All the above reflects on the fact that only in the creation of man does the Bible provide the detailed information set forth in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Genesis.

**NOTE:** While Gen. 2 points to distinctions between male and female, the Bible makes it clear that there is an equality of males and females in being the image of God and in significance.

**Gen. 1:27** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female he created them.***

**Gen. 5:1-2** *This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup> **Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.***

**Gal. 3:27-28** *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, **there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.***

**6. Only in the creation of man does God “breathe into his nostrils the breath of life” (2:7).**

When this wording is used in other places, such as Gen. 7:22, it seems to refer simply to the idea of animate life (people and animals) as opposed to that which is inanimate. Here in Gen. 2, however, **it seems to point toward the unique aspect of mankind having a non-material dimension that will never die.**

- 1) Man has a spirit, not simply of animation, but of understanding. He has a capacity to reason and think logically. He is philosophical, seeking to understand things. It is this non-material dimension, the soul or spirit, in which God's people experience fellowship with their Maker, who is spirit.

**Job 32:8** *But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand.*

**John 20:21-22** *Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit".*

- 2) Man has a conscience, a moral sense of right and wrong. The fall injured the conscience but did not remove it.

**Rom. 2:14-15** *For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. <sup>15</sup> They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them*

- 3) Man has a non-material soul or spirit that, unlike his body, cannot be killed. That soul, once created, exists forever in heaven or hell.

**Matt. 10:28** *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

**NOTE:** The Bible speaks of man's soul and man's spirit. These are not two distinct entities but simply two words that each describe the same thing.

**John 12:27** "Now is **my soul** troubled.

**John 13:21** After saying these things, Jesus was troubled **in his spirit**, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."

**Luke 1:46-47** And Mary said, "**My soul** magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and **my spirit** rejoices in God my Savior,

7. **Only in the creation of man is the creature able to speak words and understand words.**

**Gen. 2:16-17** And ***the LORD God commanded the man, saying***, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." <sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man ***to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.*** <sup>20</sup> ***The man gave names*** to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> ***Then the man said,***

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

**Q: How should this feature of being made in the image of God motivate us in the use of our words?**

A: We should strive to be God-like (godly) in our speech, speaking what is true, that which will build up.

8. **Only man is created for relational intimacy with his Maker and with his fellow human.**

**Gen. 3:8-9** And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

9. **While God's creation of man was deeply marred by man's fall, man is still the image of God, and redemption renews that image.**

**Gen. 9:6** "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

**James 3:9** *With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.*

**Eph. 4:21-24** *...assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,<sup>22</sup> to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,<sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,<sup>24</sup> and to put on **the new self, created after the likeness of God** in true righteousness and holiness.*

**Col. 3:10** *...and have put on **the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.***

**1Co 15:47-49** *The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.<sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.<sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, **we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.***

**Rom. 8:28-30** *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.<sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew **he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.**<sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*