

Who is the image of God?

A. Baxter April 12, 2006

(Gen 1:26)

And God said, Let us make man in our image...

(Gen 1:27)

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

(Gen 1:31)

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

What is an image? If I say that Daniel is the splitting image of his father David, what do I mean? Is it just in the way he looks or could it also include the way he behaves, his mannerism, his general attitude? What is the image of God? Or what is this likeness of God? In what way was man created in the image of God? Was he made to resemble Him in physical appearance? How was man created? He was created with the divine nature; in the image of God.

(Gen 5:1) *This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;* (Eph 4:23-24). Luke 3:28 say that Adam was the son of God. *“Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God”*. He was not begotten as Jesus was begotten, but he was made the son of God; in the image and likeness of God. Notice that for every step in creation God said “He saw that it was good,” but when he was finish making man, the crowning masterpiece of all creation, He said, *“...he saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.”* But where did all this goodness come from? It all came form the only one source of goodness; form God himself. As Jesus said in (Mat 19:17), *Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God...*

What then, did God put in man that made him so different for the animals and all the other living creatures? We all know that the breath of life is in the animals as there is a breath of life in man. But what is the difference? **(Gen 7:15, 22)**

And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

So wherein here do we find a difference? Here is one significant difference in the way God made man and the way He made the animals and other living creatures on the earth.

(Gen.2:7)

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Why did God breathe the breath of life into man, why did He not speak the word as he did for the other living creatures? This is just something to think about; compare this with **(John 20:22)** *And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:* What kind of life did man get when he was created? Did he receive the same life as that as the animals? When God created man, Adam, He gave him not just physical life, but also the capacity to receive the spiritual life; the Holy Spirit of God. There was made in him a place to be filled by God. He was made a sanctuary.

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?(1Cor. 6:19)

So what happened when Adam sinned? Something happened when Adam sinned. He lost something. He lost the Holy Spirit of God; the image of God; the divine nature; it was replaced with the spirit of doubt and disobedience and rebellion; the spirit of the devil. And so by nature he became the child of the devil. And likewise he passed onto all his children the same nature and we are all born after his likeness. Look with me in (Gen 5:1)

*This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, **in the likeness of God made he him**;: 3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son **in his own likeness, after his image**; and called his name Seth:*

So it is evident that after Adam sinned, he begot children, not in the image or likeness of God, but in his own likeness; after his image! Remember what I said earlier about image and likeness, that it is not just the way we resemble each other: but by our nature; our behaviour; our attitudes and mannerisms we are born in the likeness of our parents. Therefore something is wrong in the way in which we were born; that is the problem. Adam lost that spiritual image when he sinned and so everyone who is born of him has received the same image, the same nature he henceforth had. Jesus speaking to the unsaved Jews in; (John 8:44)

*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. We were all born of Adam who sold us out to the devil who became our father and since we were sold we became his slaves. David said in (Psa 51:5); *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.* We are born with a carnal, depraved and condemned nature.*

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.. (Gal 5:19-21-NKJV) For the wages of sin is death... (Rom. 6:23)

Listen as Paul quote from Ps. in (Romans 3:10-18)

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

17 And the way of peace have they not known:

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

So what is the solution to our problem? We will begin to find the answer from the words of Jesus spoken to Nicodemus in (John 3:3)

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

We need to be born again of the Spirit of the second Adam which is Christ,
“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

And so it is written, (1Cor. 15: 45, 47) the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

We cannot help ourselves; we need to escape this condemned life, and God who loves us has provided that new life in Christ Jesus.

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. (Romans 5:18)

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Eph 4: 23, 24)

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Because we now have a new brother who is Jesus Christ, His Father is now our Father too. Thank God! We now have a new Father; we are no longer slaves to the old father; sin and the devil; we have been set free from the bondage of sin and death.

I often like to imagine the human race as bird that was born free. That was entrapped and caged by a cunning. But one day someone came along and paid an awesome price for this poor helpless and depraved creature with only one intention; to set it free. So he took the cage, after completing the transaction, and opened the door of the cage setting the bird free. Now what do you think happened next? Well the bird could say I have been here too long so let me just stay here and die! Or, I don't believe that someone could just pay for me to let me go free, it is not true. Or, let me see if I can help myself through these bars, maybe with a lifetime of dedication discipline I will make it out of here, because it could not be that, this is the door or that it was opened. Now tell me, is this bird a free bird? Has it been set free? Yes it has been set free, **but has it been free?** No, it has not been free because it does not believe that it is. It has no faith. It is blind. There are many people who have heard this message and do not believe. Hence the scripture says many will not enter into his rest because of unbelief. They cannot be set free because they will not believe that **they are indeed set freed by the Son.**

I am appealing to those of you here who are still in that cage. Will you sit there and die? Or are you trying some other ways to get out. Will you believe the word of God, who cannot lie, that he has opened the door for you? Will you with the eyes of faith see the open door which Christ has opened and no man can shut, the way the truth and the life? Ponder these thoughts.

But first things come first, and we must believe first that God has done this for you; for all of us. That His word cannot fail; nor can He lie. (Heb 11:6) But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that **diligently seek him**. **Please take note of those 3 last words. Diligently seek Him.** And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. (Jer. 29:13) How do we achieve this? By spending quality time in his words. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2Tim 2: 15)

Admonition:

Today I would like to admonish you that as we go through the day we may keep these thoughts in our focus. That the priorities of life and death may seize our attention and that we may find the life and peace which God alone can give in Christ Jesus.