



# “Created In His Image”

## GENESIS Ch. 1:26-31

> **Question: “Who am I?”**

**Answer: “You are made in God’s image!”**

> **KEY #1 – OUR CREATOR GOD!** - The first chapter of Genesis alone refers to **God as the Creator 17 times** and there’s approximately **50 other references found in the Bible**. In Chapter one God gives a summary of His creation, and in chapter two He gives us an in-depth look at the creation of man.

- **On the sixth day of creation God said**, “*Let the earth bring forth the **living creature** according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so. (1:24). The Hebrew word for **creature is nephesh, or soul, this implies conscious life**, as distinguished from plants which have unconscious life. In the sense of conscious life an animal also has a soul.*

- **Creation in the New Testament - John 1:1-3** - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, **and without Him nothing was made that was made.***

**Colossians 1:16-18**- *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.***

> **KEY #2 - GOD CREATED OUR BODY!** - Man was created from the “**dust of the ground**” according to **Genesis 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 being.*

- **Insight: What Are the Elements in the Human Body?** Most of the human body is made up of water, H<sub>2</sub>O, with cells consisting of 65-90% water by weight. Therefore, it isn't surprising that most of a human body's mass is oxygen. Carbon, the basic unit for organic molecules, comes in second. 99% of the mass of the human body is made up of just six elements: oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, and phosphorus.

1. **Oxygen (65%)**
2. **Carbon (18%)**
3. **Hydrogen (10%)**
4. **Nitrogen (3%)**
5. **Calcium (1.5%)**
6. **Phosphorus (1.0%)**
7. **Potassium (0.35%)**
8. **Sulfur (0.25%)**
9. **Sodium (0.15%)**
10. **Magnesium (0.05%)**
11. **Copper, Zinc, Selenium, Molybdenum, Fluorine, Chlorine, Iodine, Manganese, Cobalt, Iron (0.70%)**
12. **Lithium, Strontium, Aluminum, Silicon, Lead, Vanadium, Arsenic, Bromine (trace amounts)**

(Reference: H. A. Harper, V. W. Rodwell, P. A. Mayes, *Review of Physiological Chemistry*, 16th ed., Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, California 1977.)

- **Keys to good HEALTH** – Proper diet - whole foods—not processed, proper sleep 7 to 8 hours, balanced vitamin and mineral intake, balanced hormone levels, exercise 2 to 3 times per week (walking, running, swimming, stretching, sports, etc.), take time to relax.

> **KEY #3 – YOU ARE MADE IN GOD’S IMAGE! - Genesis 1:26-28-** *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.** 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.**"*

- G.B. Williamson writes that there are **three facets of man as God created him:**

- (1) **A spiritual being, capable of *immortality*,**
- (2) **A moral being, bearing God’s *likeness*,**
- (3) **An intellectual being with capacity for *reason & rulership*.**

- Man was created according to the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, in Matt 19:4 - *"Have you not read that He who **made** them at the **beginning 'made them male and female,'**"* The word **made** in Greek is *ktizo* (ktid'-zo); (through the idea of proprietor-ship of the **manufacturer**); **to fabricate.**

- **Created In His Image and Likeness** - God said in verse 26, *"Let us make man in Our image, and according to Our likeness"* this is not in reference to a physical replication; Jesus said in John 4:24 – *"**God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**"* God has no body, no physical or measurable form. Thus, God is invisible. He became visible in human form in the person of Jesus Christ, but His essence is invisible.

In 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 being (soul).*** The **spirit of life** was given to man at this moment, Job 33:4 – *The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.* Job 34:14-15 - *If He should set His heart on it, if He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.*

- Turn to **John 1:1-16** in regards to Jesus - **Life itself is the likeness of God.** Jesus said in John 10:10 - *I have come **that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.***

- C.I. Scofield writes, "Man is made in the **"image and likeness"** of God. This image is found chiefly in fact that man is a **personal, rational, and moral being**. While God is infinite and man finite, nevertheless man possesses the elements of personality similar to those of the divine Person; **thinking** (Gen. 2:19-20; 3:8); **feeling** (Gen. 3:6); **willing** (Gen. 3:6-7). That man has a moral nature is implicit in the record and is further attested by NT usage (Eph. 4:23-24; Col. 3:10).

- Man is a **tri-unity, made up of body, soul, and spirit**, in - 1 Thessalonians 5:23 - *Now may the **God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

> **What is the difference between the SPIRIT and the SOUL?** The **spirit** is that which "knows" (1Cor. 2:11) and is capable of **God-consciousness and communication with God** (Job 32:8; Prov. 20:27; cp. Ps. 18:28).

- **The SPIRIT** is used as a general reference in the New Testament to the spirit of human beings: **Matthew 5:3** - *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* **Romans 8:16-17** - *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,* **Hebrews 4:12-13** - *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* Jesus made several specific references to His spirit in a human sense (Mark 2:8; John 11:33), as did Paul (Acts 17:16; 2 Cor 2:13). Paul sometimes referred to the spirits of those to whom he wrote (Galatians 6:18 - *Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen;* 2 Tim 4:22).

- **The *SOUL* is the seat of the affections, desires, emotions and the will of man (Mt. 11:29; 26:38; Jn. 12:27).** The *SOUL* is that which makes a human or animal body alive. This usage of the word soul refers to life in the physical body. The best example of this usage are those passages in the New Testament in which the Greek word for soul is translated as life. *"For whoever desires to save his life [soul] will lose it," Jesus declared, "but whoever loses his life [soul] for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"* (Mark 8:36-37).

This idea is also present in the Old Testament. For example, the soul of a dying person departed at death (Gen 35:18). The prophet Elijah brought a child back to life by stretching himself upon the child three times and praying that God would let the child's soul come back into him (1 Kings 17:19-23).

**The soul is described as the seat of many emotions and desires: the desire for food (Deut 12:20-21), love (Song 1:7), longing for God (Ps 63:1), rejoicing (Ps 86:4), knowing (Ps 139:14), and memory (Lam 3:20).**

In the New Testament, Jesus spoke of his soul as being "exceedingly sorrowful" (Matt 26:38). Mary, the mother of Jesus, proclaimed that her soul "magnifies the Lord" (Luke 1:46). John prayed that Gaius would "prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers" (3 John 2).

**- Since we are made in God's image and likeness, WHO IS GOD? God may be described in terms of attributes. An attribute is an inherent characteristic of a person or being. While we cannot describe God in a comprehensive way, we can learn about Him by examining His attributes as revealed in the Bible.**

> **The first group is known as the *NATURAL ATTRIBUTES* of God:**

- **God Is Changeless** - Progress and change may characterize some of His works, but God Himself remains unchanged (Heb 1:12). He does not change; otherwise, He would not be perfect. Thus, what we know of God can be known with certainty. He is not different from one time to another.

- **God Is All Powerful** - God's power is unlimited. He can do anything that is not inconsistent with His nature, character, and purpose (Gen 17:1; 18:14). The only limitations on God's power are imposed by Himself (Gen 18:25). "Impossible" is not in God's vocabulary. God creates and sustains all things; yet He never grows weary (Isa 40:27-31).

- **God Is All Knowing** - God possesses all knowledge (Job 38:39; Rom 11:33-36). Because God is everywhere at one and the same time, He knows everything simultaneously. That God has the power to know the thoughts and motives of every heart is evident from many Scripture passages, notably Job 37:16; Ps 147:5, and Heb 3:13.

- **God Is Everywhere** - God is not confined to any part of the universe but is present in all His power at every point in space and every moment in time (Ps 139:7-12). Thus, God does not belong to any one nation or generation. He is the God of all the earth (Gen 18:25).

- **God Is Eternal** - Eternity refers to God's relation to time. Past, present, and future are known equally to Him (2 Peter 3:8; Rev 1:8). Time is like a parade that man sees only a segment at a time. But God sees time in its entirety.

> **The second group of attributes is called *MORAL ATTRIBUTES*. These refer to God's character, His essential nature:**

- **God Is Holy** - The word holy comes from a root word that means "to separate." Thus, it refers to God as separated from or exalted above other things (Isa 6:1-3). Holiness refers to God's moral excellence. Being holy, God demands holiness in His own children. And what He demands, He supplies. Holiness is God's gift that we receive by faith through His Son, Jesus Christ (Eph 4:24).

- **God Is Righteous** - Righteousness as applied to God refers to His affirmation of what is right as opposed to what is wrong. The righteousness of God refers to His moral laws laid down to guide the conduct of humankind, as in the *Ten Commandments*. Righteousness also refers to God's administration of justice. He brings punishment upon the disobedient (Gen 18:25; Deut 32:4; Rom 2:6-16). Finally, God's righteousness is redemptive. In the Book of Romans the righteousness of God refers to God declaring the believer to be in a state of righteousness as though he had never been unrighteous (Rom 1:16-17; 3:24-26). This is possible because of the sacrificial death of Jesus on our behalf.

- **God Is Love** - Love is the essential, self-giving nature of God. God's love for man seeks to awaken a responsive love of man for God. Divine love runs like a golden thread through the entire Bible. Nature is eloquent with the skill, wisdom, and power of God. Only in the Bible, however, do we discover God giving Himself and all He possesses to His creatures, in order to win their response and to possess them for Himself. God loved and gave; He loved and sought—just as a shepherd seeks his sheep. God loved and suffered, providing His love by giving His all on the cross for the redemption of humanity. God, in His love, wills good for all His creatures (Gen 1:31; Ps 145:9; Mark 10:18).

- **God Is Truth** - All truth, whether natural, physical, or religious, is grounded in God. Thus, any seemingly inconsistent teaching between natural and physical sciences and God's revelation of Himself is more apparent than real. Truth is magnified in an absolute way through God's revelation.

- **God Is Wisdom** - God's wisdom is revealed in His doing the best thing, in the best way, at the best time for the best purpose. Some people have knowledge, but little wisdom, while the most wise at times have little knowledge. But God is "the only wise God" (1 Tim 1:17). In creation, history, human lives, redemption, and Christ, His divine wisdom is revealed. Man, lacking wisdom, can claim God's wisdom simply by asking (1 Kings 3:9; James 1:5).

The believer's understanding of God continues to increase throughout his earthly pilgrimage. It will finally be GOD complete in eternity when he stands in the presence of God.<sup>1</sup>

#### **KEY #4 – GOD CREATED US WITH THREE RESPONSIBILITIES! (v28)**

#1- ***“Be fruitful and multiply”*** – **Fruitfulness precedes multiplication**, why? **Galatians 5:22-25** - ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit;*** also **Ephesians 5:8-10** - ***Walk as children of light for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. Jesus said, John 15:16-17*** - ***You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.***)

#2- ***“Fill the earth and subdue it”*** – This is what has been called the divine *magna charta* for all true scientific and material progress. Man has been given the opportunity to exercise his intellect and discover the magnificence of God and His creation. **The word “subdue” tells us to acquire knowledge and mastery over his material environment.**

#3- ***“Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, over every living thing, that moves on the earth”*** – **Notice it does not say to have “dominion” over one another**, only God rules, it is His right since He created us. We are stewards of God's creation, the highest in the order of His creation.

**(v29-30) The food chain is provided and “God saw everything he had made, and indeed it is very good!”**

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<sup>1</sup> Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)