

**Christian Students @ SAC
College Meeting - Fall 2022
Week 1**

**BASIC LESSONS ON LIFE
LESSON ONE
THE CREATION OF MAN**

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7-9; Prov. 20:27; 1 Thes. 5:23

I. THE CREATOR—THE TRIUNE GOD

The Creator of man is the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. Man's creation was wrapped up with the Divine Trinity. It was not merely God who created man, but it was the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. This is based upon Genesis 1:26, which says, "God said, Let Us make man in Our image." Here the plural pronouns Us and Our are used, indicating that the very God who intended to create man is triune—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. According to Genesis 1:26, it seems that before God came in to create man, the Triune God had a kind of "Godhead conference," a kind of conference among the Trinity, to make a decision about how to create man in His image and according to His likeness. The decision to create man was made by the Triune God, indicating that the creation of man was for the purpose of the Triune God.

II. IN GOD'S IMAGE

Colossians 1:15 says that the beloved Son of God is the image of the invisible God, and 2 Corinthians 4:4 says that Christ is the image of God.

Man was made in the image of God, which is Christ. This indicates that man was made for Christ to enter into man so that He could occupy man and use man as His vessel to express Himself. Man is a container. A container is always made in the form of the thing that it is going to contain. Suppose the thing that is needed to be contained is square. Then you make a square container. If the thing that is to be contained is round, then you make the container round. The container is made in the image of its contents. Man was made by God in the image of God, Christ, with the purpose that one day man would be taken over by Christ and filled up with Christ so that man would be Christ's container and Christ would be man's content.

III. AFTER GOD'S LIKENESS

God's image is His inward being. God's likeness is His outward form. Inwardly, God has His being with all the attributes and the virtues, and outwardly, God has a likeness. On the one hand, God is invisible. Since God is invisible, how could God have a likeness? This is something very hard for us human beings to understand and to explain. God appeared to Abraham in Genesis 18 in the likeness of a man. God appeared to Abraham in a visible way with man's likeness.

Genesis 18 shows that God has man's likeness. Man's likeness is after God's likeness. We human beings have a physical body, and this is our likeness. We also have our inner being. In the same way, God has His inner being and also His likeness. Man's outward body was created after the likeness of God. Before God was incarnated to be a man, He appeared to Abraham in the form of a man. The form of man is the form of God, for man was created after the likeness of God.

IV. WITH THE DUST FOR THE BODY THAT MAN MAY EXIST

Genesis 2:7 says that God formed a body for man with the dust of the ground. The physical body is for man's existence. Without such a physical body formed with the dust, man cannot exist. When man's body dies, the man dies, so man's existence is altogether dependent upon his physical body.

V. WITH THE BREATH OF LIFE FOR A SPIRIT THAT MAN MAY RECEIVE GOD

God created man with the breath of life for a spirit that man may receive God. This is also recorded in Genesis 2:7. After God formed man with the dust of the ground to give him a physical body, God breathed the breath of life into the nostrils of man.

Our body of dust is a physical organ, and our spirit of the breath of life is a spiritual organ. We have a body of dust as our physical organ to contact the outward, physical world; we also have the spirit that comes from the breath of life as our inward, spiritual organ so that we can contact God in the spiritual world. Thus, it is clear that the man created by God has two organs: the body formed with dust and the spirit that came from the breath of life.

VI. GOD BREATHING THE BREATH OF LIFE INTO MAN

God created man with the breath of life so that man might have a spirit as a kind of receptacle to receive God.

VII. TO PRODUCE THE SOUL SO THAT MAN MAY LIVE THROUGH THE MIND, EMOTION, AND WILL

The producing of man's soul is also recorded in Genesis 2:7. Genesis 2:7 says that when the breath of life was breathed into the nostrils of the body of man, man became a living soul. God used two kinds of materials—the dust for making man's body and the breath of life for producing man's spirit. When these two things came together, right away man became a living soul. This means that the soul is the issue of the breath of life getting into the physical body of man.

It is clear that man was made in three parts: the outward body, the inward spirit, and the soul as the very being of man. This is why 1 Thessalonians 5:23 says that our whole being is composed of our spirit, soul, and body. We are a tripartite man. The soul is our being with our body as the outward organ and with our spirit as the inward organ. The soul as our being is

composed of the mind, emotion, and will. This is according to the revelation of the Bible. The Bible shows us that in our soul we have our mind to think, to consider things (Psa. 13:2), we have our emotion to love and to hate (1 Sam. 18:1; 2 Sam. 5:8), to like and to dislike things (Isa. 61:10; Psa. 86:4), and we also have our will to make decisions, to make choices (Job 7:15; 6:7; 1 Chron. 22:19). These are the functions of the soul.

VIII. THE INTENTION OF GOD'S CREATION OF MAN

God created man in a way that was good for man to take God, to receive God, into man as his life. Man was created by God with a mind, an emotion, and a will and also with a spirit in the center of man's being as a receptacle for him to receive God. Thus, by his mind man can understand what God wants; by his emotion man can like, can love, can prefer, what God wants; and by his free will man can make a decision to choose God, to take God. Furthermore, man has a spirit as an organ, even a receptacle, to receive God into him as his life. This is God's intention in His creation of man.

IX. PUTTING MAN BEFORE THE TREE OF LIFE, INDICATING THAT GOD WANTED MAN TO RECEIVE HIM AS LIFE

God put man before the tree of life, indicating that God wanted man to receive Him as life. We have to see that at the very beginning, God had no intention to ask man to keep any law, to do anything good, or to bear any kind of burden. At the very beginning, right after God created man, God only put man in front of the tree of life. This indicated that God wanted man to receive Him as life, signified by the tree of life. God also warned man that he should be careful about his eating. Of course, what man did was altogether up to his own free will. What he chose to eat was up to him. But God's desire was that man would choose the tree of life, which means that man would choose God as life.

X. MAN BEING CREATED AS A VESSEL TO RECEIVE AND CONTAIN GOD

Man was created as a vessel to receive and contain God. This is fully revealed in Romans 9:21 and 23 and 2 Corinthians 4:7. In Romans 9 we are told that God is a potter, and we are the clay. The Potter made the clay vessels, and He made us vessels of mercy, vessels unto honor, and even vessels unto glory. Our being vessels to contain God is not because we are so good and preferable to God; it is altogether a matter of God's mercy. God had mercy upon us, and He wanted us to be His vessels, so we are the vessels of mercy. We are vessels unto honor because we contain the God of honor. Eventually, we all will be filled with God's glory and glorified in the glory of God to become the vessels unto glory. Thus, God created us as vessels—vessels of mercy, vessels unto honor, and vessels unto glory to contain Him.

We must see that God's creation is to make us vessels to contain Him. The creation of man was just to make man as a vessel with a receptacle, that is, our spirit, to receive God into us as our life.

Questions

1. Was man made after man's image and likeness or according to God's image and likeness?
Explain with a verse.
2. What is God's intention in creating man?