

SESSION 6: GENESIS- MAN IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

A. Uniqueness of Man in Creation

1. Only part of creation about which deliberation is noted
2. Only part that was said to be in the image of God
3. Only part of creation to which responsibility is entrusted.
4. Only part of creation that does not immediately fill up it's sphere.
5. Note the picture of man being formed from the earth. Breath of God becomes his life.
6. Only part of creation that is mentioned as having interacted with God.

B. Uniqueness is best summed up in the terms image and likeness.

1. To be in the image is to *be similar to but not identical with*.
 - a. Degree of similarity varies...
 - i. Man is in the image of God.
 - ii. Seth was in the image of Adam. Gen. 5:3
 - iii. This is the main meaning of "likeness"
 - b. To be in the image is to *represent something else*.

- i. Used to describe statues that represented heathen gods. 2 Kings 11:18
 - ii. Used of artistic representation of mice. 1 Sam. 6:5
 - iii. Used of sketch used to relate how an altar was constructed, 2 Kings 16:10
- c. To be in the image and likeness is *to be similar to God and to represent Him*

C. What exactly is that image? How are we like God?

1. The Bible does not say explicitly.
2. Some key areas that the overall teaching of the Word seems to indicate.
 - a. Our **intellectual** nature.- *Particularly abstract reasoning*
 - b. Our **moral** nature - *Ability to make choices for which we are responsible*
 - c. Our **social** nature - *Capacity to enter into the experience of another*
3. Given to man so that he could
 - a. Fellowship with God
 - b. Represent God

D. Was the image of God lost in the Fall of man?

1. Marred but not lost. Gen 9:6, James 3:9

2. Goal of salvation is to fully restore that original image.
 - a. Perfect expression of the image of God in man is Jesus.
 - b. Goal of salvation is that we should be conformed to the image of Christ.
Rom. 8:29

E. What was Adam and Eve's experience in the garden?

1. Completely safe-peace
2. Completely content-joy
3. Interacting freely with God.

