

Sunday April 21, 2013

"Creation"

Day 6

Part 4

Introduction: The last time we were together we were looking at the creation of man and what is meant when the Bible tells us we were created in the image of God.

Notice Genesis 1:26-27

We are told 3 times in these 2 verses that man was created in the image of God. But the question is, "What does this mean?"

The fact that we were created in the image of God is the very thing that separates us from the animal world. When God created Adam He placed in him some of the very attributes that are His.

The last time we were together we looked at one of those attributes.

1. Language or communication.

God has placed into mankind the ability to be able to communicate with one another but this attribute was for something much greater than communication with fellow humans. There were really 2 main purposes why God gave us the ability to speak.

a. He desires communion with us.

Genesis 3:8-11

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

⁹ And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

¹⁰ And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

¹¹ And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

b. He desires that we praise Him with our voices.

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Psalm 150:6

⁶ Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

When sin entered in these 2 purposes were distorted and now the voice of man is used to curse people, dishonor God, and to promote self.

Romans 3:11-14

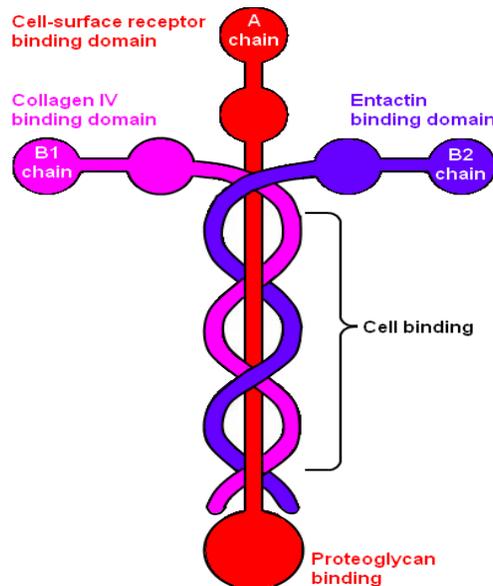
¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

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:

We also consider the protein which holds our bodies all together which is called "laminin".



Psalm 139:14

¹⁴ I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

That brings us to where we stopped the last time we were together.

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2. Immortality

Years ago I visited with a man who had a small poodle and his main concern in life was if that poodle would go to heaven when it died. I explained to him that animals cease to exist when they die and that his poodle would not go to heaven. That man cried his eyes out that evening because he was at one time told his dog would live forever in heaven.

Animals are not like humans. When your dog dies he is dead forever and he just ceases to exist. But once you were conceived you will never cease to exist. You will live forever in one of two places, either heaven or hell.

Revelation 21:3-7

³ And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

⁵ And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

⁶ And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

⁷ He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

This is the description of the eternal home of the saved.

Revelation 20:11-14

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

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¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

This is a description of the eternal torment of the lost.

Now this attribute which was placed in man can be clearly seen in the lives of people now and in the past. Man has within him the desire to live forever and this desire manifests itself in many ways.

In the Old Testament there was often a special greeting that was required to address a monarch.

Daniel 2:4

⁴ Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

Daniel 3:9

⁹ They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

Four times in Daniel this statement is made and it shows man's desire to live forever.

Today people are frozen when they die with the hope of being thawed one day and continuing with their lives. **The process is called cryonics. Cryonics is the science of using ultra-cold temperature to preserve human life with the intent of restoring good health when technology becomes available to do so.**

When man was created he was created to live forever but it was the entrance of sin into the world that brought death.

Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

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Romans 5:12

¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

From the pronouncement of the curse up to our day people have done all they can to avoid death and this is actually a desire to return to the way life was before the fall. Death has become the biggest fear of the human race.

3. Freedom

When Adam was created he was given perfect freedom but he misused his freedom and ate the forbidden fruit. From that day forward Adam, Eve, and all of their offspring were enslaved to sin. That enslavement has traveled right down to you and me.

John 8:34

³⁴ Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

Now man longs to be free from the enslavement of sin but he looks for that freedom in the wrong places. You see man thinks that independence is freedom but no matter how independent a man is he is still enslaved to sin.

Genesis 4:6-8

⁶ And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

⁷ If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

⁸ And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Here is a tragic example of enslavement to sin.

Cain believed that complete independence was the best answer for his life. God warned him if he rejected God's way then sin would control him. Cain did not believe God's Word and sin gripped his soul and took him down a path where he murdered his own brother.

Let me give you one more attribute that sets us apart from the animal world.

4. Love

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Regardless of what many believe animals cannot love. You may think your dog loves you but he does not know how to love. He may be loyal to you but he does not love you in the sense that we can love.

Man was created and given the ability to love and there are actually 4 types of love that man is capable of showing:

1. Agape - Unconditional
2. Philia - Brotherly love between believers
3. Storge - Family love
4. Eros - Intimate love between a husband and wife

But when sin entered into the world love was distorted and instead of man loving God and his fellow man, he loves sin, the world, and self.

1 John 2:15

¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Conclusion:

Now let us pull all of this together for a conclusion.

I do not know your heart or your life. You have come here this morning but maybe you are:

1. Fearful of death.
2. Enslaved to sin.
3. In love with the world and all it has to offer.

There is only one answer for you and that is Jesus.

✓ **If you come to Him death is nothing to be feared.**

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

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⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

✓ **If you come to Him you will be set free from the power of sin.**

John 8:36

³⁶ If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

✓ **If you come to Him He will teach you how to love.**

1 Thessalonians 4:9

⁹ But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

1 John 4:7

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.