

Created in the Image of God

KJV Genesis 1:26 And God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷ **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.** ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

God is exercising His creative genius in *Genesis 1*.

Genesis reveals “Creative principles” in the original creation.

Mankind is the final crown of God’s creation.

(Creation: James Weldon Johnson)

I

We recognize the *Imago Dei*, the image of God in every human being.
Genesis 1:26-28

The image (selem) of God is His nature.

Man is lesser than and finite in his reflection of the nature of God.

His nature includes His life, personality, truth, wisdom, love, holiness, and justice.

As image bearers, we have the capacity for spiritual fellowship with Him.

We are created in His likeness means we are created to function, behave and act like Him.

Adam was created complete and as one being.

KJV Genesis 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; ² Male and female created he them;** and blessed them, and **called their name Adam**, in the day when they were created.

II

The male and female reflect the multidimensional nature of God.

- They were coequal, complementary components, co-regents, and joint heirs on the earth.

The one flesh principle recognizes both male and female from the beginning as heirs together in one earthling, Adam.

NRSV Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.”

NRSV Genesis 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon **the man**, and he slept; then he took one of **his ribs** and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And **the rib** that the LORD God had taken from **the man** he made into a **woman** and brought **her** to the **man**.

“Until the divine surgery that produced two separate human beings was affected, humanity was genderless. The male became male only when the female was fashioned from what God had extracted from the earthling. There was, therefore, **no temporal gap separating male and female, no hierarchy in creation, and no special attention given to the production of either male or female.** Their creation was

simultaneous. They were “one flesh,” and they were coequal both before and after they were given separate existence.” *Coequal Dr. John D Garr PhD*

III

NRSV Matthew 19:3 Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?” ⁴ He answered, “**Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’** ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”

Jesus, when asked about marriage, appeals to the original model in the beginning.

- *Have you not read?*

Mankind are created in the image of God.

In Christ, both male and female are all one in redemption.

Consider *KJV Galatians 4:28* There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, **there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

In marriage, the male and female are joint heirs.

KJV 1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and **as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your** prayers be not hindered.

MSG 1 Peter 3:7 The same goes for you husbands: Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women, they lack some of

your advantages. **But in the new life of God's grace, you're equals. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don't run aground.**

“The woman was more than an assistant: she was an incomparable equal partner with whom the man could share every aspect of his existence, both his spiritual life, his intellectual life, his emotional life, and his physical life. In every respect, the first human couple was one—consubstantial and coequal.”

Coequal Dr. John D. Garr PhD

We are no more two but one flesh of the same substance.

The male and female were coequal, complementary components, coregents, and joint heirs on the earth.

We are fearfully and wonderfully made! We are marvelous works of the LORD! Psalm 139

We are created in the image of God!

*Ministerial Alliance Graduation
Bishop La Fayette Scales
Sunday, August 20, 2023
6:00 p.m.*