

The Birth of Mankind

Chapter 5

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson five



Objective: To understand God's purpose in creating human beings.



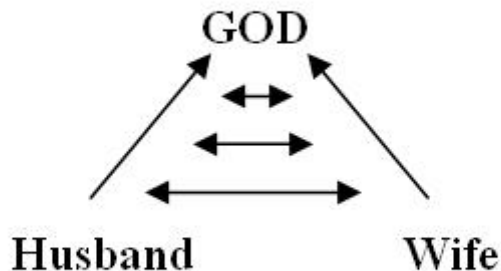
God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him. Male and female, created He them.

—Genesis 1:27

Human beings were created in the image and likeness of God. We have the capacity to be spiritual, creative, thinking, feeling, and able to communicate. The image of God in us was marred when Adam and Eve sinned, and the rest of Scripture deals with this problem: how to recreate God's image within man so that sinful man might have fellowship with a Holy God. Genesis 1 and 2 shows us man as he was intended to be. Genesis 3 shows us man as he is.

God created woman from man's side—not his head, for her to rule over him, and not his feet, for her to serve him. She comes from his side so that she would be close to his heart. Woman is a “completer” for man. Man and woman united in one flesh make one whole man.

Marriage is an exclusive relationship. A man is to leave his father and mother, and he forsakes all other women for his wife. The woman makes the same commitment. This is God's perfect plan—His blueprint—for marriage. The primary and most important relationship for both man and woman is their relationship with God. As they grow closer to God, they grow closer to each other.





Choose one best answer unless instructed otherwise.

1. True or false? Being created in God's image means our bodies look like God.
2. True or false? Marriage (and family) is the most important social unit we have on earth today.
3. What do you think happened to the image of God when man sinned?
 - a. It was lost forever. We cannot get it back.
 - b. It was marred, but we can fix it if we try real hard to be good.
 - c. It is gone, but we can look like the image of God if we obey God's laws.
 - d. It was marred, but it can be restored by God and a spiritual rebirth – a new creation—in man's heart.
4. If a man and a woman do not have a relationship with the same God, what happens to their relationship?
 - a. Nothing. That does not make any difference.
 - b. It makes marriage harder, but they can still be one as God intended.
 - c. They cannot grow closer to each other spiritually.
5. According to God, man and woman joined together in marriage and sexual unity are:
 - a. one united whole for life
 - b. two separate individuals
 - c. a temporary union
 - d. asking for trouble

6. What happens to your relationship with your parents when you get married?
 - a. It is not important anymore.
 - b. It is important, but the marriage relationship is the priority.
 - c. There is no change. Our first allegiance will always be to our parents.

7. What happens when a woman gets married?
 - a. God no longer considers her an individual person.
 - b. She should remain independent from her husband.
 - c. Though she completes her husband, she is still valued by God as an individual.
 - d. Her only role is to have children.

8. What is the purpose of the family?
 - a. to be a place of companionship
 - b. to be a place of nurture
 - c. to increase the human family as a whole
 - d. all of the above

9. What is the best way to have an adequate marriage?
 - a. Try to become an adequate partner.
 - b. Try to make your wife or husband adequate.
 - c. Try to make your children adequate.
 - d. Try to earn a good living.

10. Which words describe God's plan for marriage? (choose all that apply)

a. providential	b. purposeful
c. temporary	d. permanent
e. unimportant	f. exclusive
g. faithful	h. divided
i. united	



How does it make you feel to know you are created in the image of God? How does it make you feel to know that sin has marred that image?

Read: Psalm 51:10 – *“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”* 2 Corinthians 5:17 – *“For if a man belongs to Christ, he is a new person. The old life is gone. New life has begun.”* How can you get the image of God back?



Pray and thank God that He created you and desires to have a relationship with you. Ask God to help you to know Him better and to give you strength to follow Him every day. If you are married, ask Him to make you a godly spouse. If you are not married, pray that God will not only provide a godly spouse but will make you a godly spouse too.



Going Deeper

1. Precisely what does it mean when we read that man was created in the image of God? (Consider John 4:24) Does this apply to our bodies or to our capacity to be spiritual creatures?

2. What happened to that image potential as described in the third chapter of the book of Genesis? _____

3. How can that image potential be restored? (Consider Psalm 51:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 18)

4. How can we become an adequate marriage partner or parent? _____

5. Why must the marriage relationship be a permanent relationship, an exclusive, all-inclusive and providential relationship? _____

6. Why are marriage and the family the most important institution God created? (Consider Psalms 127, 128) _____

7. Which is more important – the family or the church? Why? _____
