

We Are Created In The “*Image*” Of God, What Does That Really Mean?

Exodus 3:14 [NIV] “*God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”*“

In answer to Moses’ question, God introduced Himself as “*I AM.*”

The Hebrew means “*I will be what I will be*” the tense is continuance in time, present, past and future, for ever.

God is un-derived and self-existent.

When we ask the question who am I?

The answer is that the great Creator God, who introduces Himself to human beings as “*I AM,*” has planted in every human being a gift that is a shadow of His own existence.

Genesis 1:26 [NIV] “*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*“

The word “*image*” is the Hebrew “*tselem*” referring to a shadow, recognisable but **not** the real thing.

John 4:24 [NIV] “*God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.*”

God is spirit.

Job 32:8 [NIV] “*But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.*”

God has planted in each human being a spirit that gives us intellect, an awareness of our existence.

It is that spirit that defines us as human and gives us God-like qualities such as thought, ability to choose, to plan and from what already exists, create something different.

1 Corinthians 2:11 [NIV] “*For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*”

As God’s self-knowledge lies in the eternal Holy Spirit, so our self-knowledge lies in our spirit.

I like to refer to this as “*human spirit*” to distinguish it from the God’s Spirit, the Holy Spirit.

Our knowledge of God is by a direct impression of the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, upon our human spirit, [Proverbs 20:27].

What is revealed by all this is that a human being is **not** a body having a spirit but a spirit having a body.

What makes us human is not our bodies but our human spirit.

Genesis 2:7 [NIV] “*the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*”

This is the original gift of this “*human spirit*” in the original creation of the first human being.

John 4:23-24 [NIV] “*Yet a time is coming and has now come when **the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth**, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.*”

The only true way to worship our Creator God is in the spiritual realm.

This is the only way we can have a relationship with our Creator.

True religion is removed totally from diet or days, from garments and ceremonies, and is placed where it belongs, the union of our human spirit and the Spirit of God.

Isaiah 59:2 [NIV] “*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*”

From a human viewpoint this is the most tragic thing that can happen to a human being.

To be cut off from the source of our humanity.

The “*human spirit*” within each of us, cut off from the Holy Spirit, who gave it to us.

We become babies and young children who have lost contact with their parents.

We then dwell alone, having lost our spiritual privilege of being made in the “*image*” and “*likeness*” of our Creator.

This inner “*I am*” is so intimately private that no other human being can ever intrude, with one exception.

Revelation 3:14, 20 [NIV] “*To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.*” ... “**Here I am! I stand at the door and knock.** If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”

Referring to Jesus Christ, who is giving this revelation to the apostle John [**Revelation 1:1**].

Only Jesus Christ may enter this inner sanctum we all have as human beings, and He will only enter by our invitation.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] “*If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*”

By this mysterious operation of the Holy Spirit entering into our “*human spirit*”, a new birth takes place.

John 3:5-8 [NIV] “*Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.*”

This new birth re-establishes the relationship that our sins caused to be broken.

2 Peter 1:4 [NIV] *“Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”*

As a result of this we can begin to take on the very nature, character of God.

This is the “*likeness*” referred to in **Genesis 1:26** but as **Genesis 1:27** states was **not** part of the original creation of human beings.

The Hebrew word translated “*likeness*” is “*demûwth*” meaning son, manner, character.

Romans 8:9, 16 [NIV] *“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.” ... “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”*

Only a human being who has experienced this union of the Holy Spirit and our “*human spirit*” is a true Christian and child of God.

Baptism, confirmation, the receiving of the sacraments, church membership, all mean nothing unless this supreme act of God in regeneration takes place in a human being.

Religious externals may have a place and meaning for a God-inhabited human being.

For any other humans they are not only useless but may even become deceiving snares.

Giving to that human being a false and perilous sense of security.