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## Study One

### The Nature Of Man

We have spent the last 13 lessons considering the attributes of God, that is what characteristics are attributed to God that defines who God is. One of the most significant aspects of God and His attributes is His uniqueness. God is absolutely unique outside of, above, and over all else in existence. In God creating man in His own image, God made man in a unique way to be unique in existence over all other creation.

“God created all things according to His will and for His glory (John 1:3; Col. 1:15-17; Rev. 4:11) and they continue to exist in the same way (Psalm 104; Acts 17:25; 1 Cor. 8:6). Even more, everything that does exist was created by God (Gen. 2:1; Job 38; Ps. 148:1-5; Acts 14:15; 17:24; Eph. 3:9), including man and woman whom together He named “man” (Gen. 5:2). It was on the sixth day of creation (Gen. 1:23-24) that God decided to and created man (Gen. 1:26, 27), in the beginning (Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6). These days were literal, 24-hour days, attested to by textual modifiers “morning and evening” (1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31) and the word “day” accompanied by an ordinal number, sequentially. The days are also referred to as literal 24-hour days by God in the giving of the Law to Israel (Ex. 20:8-11) where God equated the days of creation to man’s 6 literal days of weekly work and the literal single day of the weekly Sabbath.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Lex DeLong, *TH600 Anthropology and Hermatology*, Baptist Bible Seminary of Clarks Summit University, Mar. 2021, 1.

God formed man (Adam) physically out of the, “dust from the ground” (Gen. 2:7), woman (Eve) was fashioned from one of Adam’s ribs (2:21-22; 1 Cor. 11:8-9), and the man and woman together God named “man,” (1:26; 5:2). God breathed the “breath of life” into man to make his flesh come alive, both physically (2:7) and in spirit (Zech. 12:1). Man was created with maturity and intellect (Prov. 8:22-31), being placed in the garden to fill it (1:28), cultivate and keep it (2:5, 8, 15), live off of it (1:16, 29), and have authority over it (1:19-20, 28). God established the parameters of existence for all that was created including man (Gen. 1+2). Additionally, man was expected to obey God (Gen. 1:28; 2:16-17). At the completion of creation, all that was created (including man) was in perfect harmony with God as Creator (Gen. 1:31 all “was very good”; 2:25 man was “not ashamed”).<sup>2</sup>

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1. Why do you think the foundational nature of man is important to consider?

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2. In what ways have you seen the present culture fight against the nature of man?

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3. Read Gen. 1:26 + 5:2. Do you see any significance to God naming humanity as “man,” and if so, what is that significance?

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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4. Read Gen. 2:7 + Zech. 12:1. What unique aspect of man do you see in these passages over that of all other creation?

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5. Read Gen. 1:28; 1:16-29; 2:5, 8, 15; Prov. 8:22-31. What are unique characteristics about the nature of man in these verses over all other creation?

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6. Based on Gen. 1 + 2, Who determined the nature and parameters of man's existence?

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7. Read Gen. 1:28; 2:16-17. In light of God's determination for man, what is man's expected response to God's design of him?

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8. Read Gen. 1:31; 2:25. Based on these verses, what can be concluded about man's relationship with God at the time of original creation?

## Key Verse

*"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."*

Rom. 1:20 (NASB)

## Conclusion:

In creating man in His own image, God took aspects of His essence and placed them into man who was designed as God's image on earth. God determined the boundaries of man's existence (Acts 17:26), the intent for His existence (Gen. 1+2), and the expectation for His existence (Gen. 1:28; 2:16-17).

Man (male and female) was to be and bear God's image both spiritually and physically as part of God's material and immaterial creation.

God leaves us at the end of Gen. 2 with a perfect harmony in God's existence with His perfect creation. There was perfection in God's image in man. It was unique before sin entered in.

When sin entered into man's existence (Gen. 3; Rom. 5), that image was changed. It was damaged irreparably. The nature of God's image in man was altered...it was different, and man could not turn back the clock. God was the only one who could repair the damage man did through sin, so He sent His Son to purchase man back from sin.

Through salvation man is now regenerated (repaired) by the work of the Holy Spirit through Christ's provision (Titus 3:5). Over the next few studies, we will look at the image of God in man in its pre-fall state, in its fallen state, and in its redeemed state. For background, read Romans 5 to prepare for the next lesson.