



## Study Two

### The Pre-Fall Image of God In Man

“Of all created things, including living things that had God’s breath of life in them (Gen. 2:8; 6:17), the creation of man stands out unique over them all. All other living things were created *en masse* (Gen. 1:20-25). However, mankind was created as one male and one female, one at a time, and as such were expected to fill the earth (Gen. 1:28). Man was also notably different than all other living things (Gen. 2:20).

“Man’s uniqueness in creation was most exemplified in being created in God’s image (1:26-27; 5:1). The *Image of God* in man was God imparting to man characteristics of His own, enabling man to rule over creation as he was commanded and being able relate to that creation, fellow man, and God in a manner that other creatures could not.”<sup>1</sup>

Those unique characteristics from God to man in His image are Intellect, Emotion, Volition, Morality, and Spirituality. These characteristics were patterned after the characteristics of God’s own nature. God’s image in man is substantive (the body is the vehicle that enables man to function in a physical world), yet it is also immaterial nature within him (the spirit which moves the body to rule and relate). These both enable man to fulfil God’s design for him which is two-fold: to *Rule* (purpose) and *Relate* (community).<sup>2</sup>

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

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1. What makes your favorite person in the world special to you?

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2. What are things you strive to do to be that kind of friend for others?

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3. Read Gen. 1:20-25, 28; 2:20. Compare and contrast man’s creation with that of all other living creatures.

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4. Read Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1. What makes these verses special to you?

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5. Identify characteristics in each of the following passages that relate to man’s unique Image of God over all other creation:

- Gen. 2:15, 20 –
- Prov. 8:22-31 –
- Gen. 2:16-17; 3:14-19, 22 –
- Gen. 2:23; 3:7-8, 10 –
- Gen. 2:19-20; 3:6 –
- Gen. 2:16-17; 3:14-19, 22 –
- John 14:24; Zech. 21:1; Gen. 2:9, 16; 3:22; Rom. 5:12-21 –

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<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 2, (edited for this Bible Study).

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6. Read 1 Cor. 11:7. Aside from the head covering part, does this verse speak of the substantive (the body as the vehicle) or actual (actions) nature of God's image in man? Why might that be important?

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7. Read Gen. 1:26, 28; Ps. 8. What is God's design for man in these verses?

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8. Read Gen. 1:29-31; 2:16-17. What is man to relate to in these verses?

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9. Read Gen. 2:24-25. What is man to relate to in these verses?

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10. Read Gen. 1:26, 27; 5:1-2. What or who is man to relate to in these verses?

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11. Is there any other part of creature of creation that relates to any of these verses or ideas about man as God created Him and why might that be important to consider?

## Key Verse

“...he [man] is the image and the glory of God.”

1 Cor. 11:7b (NASB)

## Conclusion:

Those characteristics unique to man are: *Intellect* (in function, Gen. 2:15, 20; comprehension, Prov. 8:22-31; language, Gen. 2:16-17, 23; 3:9-13; 4:1; reason 3:12-13), *Emotion* (the first poetic verse, Gen. 2:23; self-awareness 3:7-8; fear 3:10), *Volition* or the power to choose (Gen. 2:19-20; 3:6), *Morality* (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:14-19, 22), and *Spirituality* (they could relate to God spiritually by moral choice of obedience or disobedience as already mentioned, but also with God as Spirit, John 4:24 and Zech. 21:1; and as a consequence enjoy eternal life or death, 2:9, 16, 3:22, Rom. 5:12-21). These characteristics were patterned after the characteristics of God's own nature. God's image in man is substantive (1 Cor. 11:7, the body is the vehicle that enables man to function in a physical world), yet it is also immaterial nature within him (the spirit which moves the body to rule and relate). These both enable man to fulfil God's design for him which is two-fold: to *Rule* over Creation (Gen. 1:26, 28; Ps. 8) and *Relate* to it (Gen. 1:29-31; 2:16-17), to fellow man (2:24-25), and to God in the way that God modeled (“Let Us make...in Our image,” 1:26, 27; 5:1-2), intended (1:26-30), and commanded (2:16). This image communicates purpose (rule) and community (Relationship) for man's existence.