

## Week 2 – Man (The Image of God)

### **Genesis 1:26-27.**

Last week we talked about who God is. We mentioned that God was the Creator of the whole world and everything in it. Human beings were a special part of God's creation at the beginning of time. When God set His mind to create man, He said, "Let us make man in our image after our likeness." But what does it mean to be made in the image of God? Well, essentially, it means two things: they are **unique** and they have a **purpose**.

First, people are unique among all of God's creation. Man was created differently than everything else that God created. When God wanted light, He simply spoke and there was light. He did the same with the rest of the world and the animals; he spoke, and they appeared. When God created man, however, He formed man carefully out of the dust of the ground and breathed into that man the breath of life. And the man came alive. God created mankind in a special way.

The image of God also means that people were created to have a purpose. When one person would look at another, they were supposed to be reminded of the Creator who was in control of everything. Mankind was made to serve God and to carry out His work on the earth. The first man, Adam, was given a job by God in the Garden of Eden. Later on, when God created a wife for Adam, together they were told to rule over creation as a picture of God's ultimate rule over everything. They were supposed to follow God's commands and serve Him with their lives.

Both the uniqueness of man and the purpose of man required a special relationship with God. After God created man, He said that it was good. People were created perfectly. They were able in every way to fulfill God's purposes for their lives. They had a great relationship with Him and looked to Him to fulfill their needs. They joyfully served Him and followed His reign in their lives.

So what did it mean that you were created in the image of God? It means that you are special to God. You are different than all the mountains and trees and animals and bugs and even angels. God created you carefully to give you a purpose. You are meant to serve Him and represent Him to the rest of creation. As we keep moving through this season, we will talk more about this purpose and the relationship between God and man.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be made in the image of God?
2. Do we treat others like they are made in the image of God?
3. When we sin against someone, what are we saying about them?
4. How well do you represent God as the "image of God"?