

Man Made in the “Image and Likeness of God”

This image is found chiefly in the fact that man is a personal, rational, and moral being. While God is infinite and man finite, nevertheless, man possesses the elements of personality similar to those of the divine Person: thinking (Gen 2:19, 20; 3:8), feeling (Gen 3:6), willing (Gen 3:6, 7). That man has a moral nature is implicit in the record and is further attested by the New Testament usage (Eph 3:23, 24; Col 3:10). Man is also, according to 1 Thessalonians 5:23, a tri-unity, made up of body, soul and spirit. But because “God is a Spirit” (Jn 4:24), this tripartite nature of man is not to be confused with the original “image and likeness” of God which, being spiritual, relates to the elements of personality.

Man was created in innocence, placed in a perfect environment, subjected to a simple test, and warned of the consequences of disobedience. He was not compelled to sin, but tempted by Satan, he chose to disobey God. The woman was deceived; the man transgressed deliberately (1 Tim 2:14). The stewardship of innocence ended in the expulsion from Eden. (Gen 3:24) “But God commendeth His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8). “He that believeth on Him is not condemned” (Jn 3:18).