

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

Genesis 2:19, 20: And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a help meet for him.

Genesis 3:8: . . . And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

FEELING

Genesis 3:6: . . . And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

WILLING

Genesis 3:6, 7: . . . And the eyes of them both were opened, and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

That man has a moral nature is implicit in the record and is further attested by the New Testament usage:

Ephesians 4:23, 24: . . . And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness

Colossians 3:10: . . . And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

Man is also according to 1 Thessalonians 5:23 a trinity, 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).