

Genesis 1:26-31

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”

Driving with our daughter, something I said I would never do, I had a heart stopping moment. As we were about to back out of a parking space I turned and yelled stop! She stopped and yelled out “What?” She looked in her rearview mirror and finally saw the little elderly woman walking behind us. She almost run this woman over, but on top of almost running over this woman her comment is what really did her in as far as I was concerned. When she saw this woman she almost hit she looked over at me and said, “Oops, my bad.” This comment, which many young people say today, told me, without really saying the words; that this elderly woman was of little worth to my daughter at the time. God not only created persons, but he persons of “worth.”

In Matthew 6:26, Jesus said, *“Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow or reaped or gather in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”* The insinuation here is “Yes they are of value,” but how much more and why?

Years ago a little publication called The Electric Experimenter calculated what the average person weighing 150 pounds was worth. When the raw components were considered, it was determined that the average

person was composed of 3,500 feet of oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen; enough fats to make a candle weighing 15 pounds; enough carbon to make 9,360 lead pencils; fifty-four ounces of phosphorus to make 800,000 matches; enough sugar to make six little sugar cubes; enough iron to make a ten-penny nail; enough lime to mark off the batter's box on a baseball diamond; twenty spoonful of salt; and various other chemicals and water which collectively totaled \$8.50. In consideration of current inflationary costs, this means that a 150 pound person is presently valued at about \$25.ⁱ

Jesus asked, “*Are you not worth more than they?*” How much more? From time to time it is remarked that “so-and-so is worth a million dollars,” or a certain athlete is worth 100 million. This is not the kind of worth we are concerned with here. The Bible tells us that each child of God is a creature of unutterable worth. So much so that Jesus said “*even the hairs of your head are all numbered.*”

In Genesis we read of the creation of the world. We read how after every created thing God said “*It is good.*” Everything God created was good. It was more than good it was perfect. As we opened with Genesis 1:26 “*God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness;”* God has created

but this time His creation was created different, the creation was in His image, in His likeness. God then created a partner for man He created woman. If this is the case, if we agree God created then when man and woman were created they were created in His image thus created perfect.

God then placed them in this place called Eden; God's original vision was to come down and commune with them and live in perfect fellowship with them; in perfect fellowship with us. God had created the perfect community. God's vision was to spend eternity in this perfect community enjoying the fellowship with the people He created. God chooses to bring you and me into this world to commune with Him, and to this day God still yearns to commune with you; to be with you. But my question is why? Why would God want to come down here, in this sin sick world and commune with me? Who am I that God should want to be with me?

At some point in your relationship with your spouse, you decided you wanted to share your life with another human being. Then both of you together decided you wanted to add to your union and you created together. In preparation for the arrival of this new life the two of you created, you set out to put together to best possible environment for this new life.

Maybe you created a special room; provided a strong new crib; warm soft cozy blankets; maybe some stuffed animals; maybe even one of those warmers for the baby wipes.

With each passing month, you grew more and more excited, knowing that in just a short time, you would be with someone so special to you that you would do anything to protect and nurture. Mostly you just wanted to be with this special person. The joy you felt when you first looked upon their face was indescribable.

That is the way it was for God when He looked into the eyes of Adam and Eve. He was not looking at just the creation of human life, but He also saw His plan. Just as parents dream of a bright future for their children, God saw not just a good life, but a perfect one. God never intended for you and me to suffer. His plans were for us to experience perfect harmony with our neighbors. God's plan was for a perfect life for and with us. So what happened?ⁱⁱ

When God created Adam and Eve He gave them something else besides a perfect home in the garden; He gave them freedom! Rather than force them into a relationship with Him, God gave them the freedom to

choose whether they wanted to be with Him or go it alone. John Wesley called this “Free Will.” The way God provided this freedom was He set two trees in the middle of the garden. The tree of life, from which they could have eaten, the other was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

What Adam did not understand was with his death God’s plan of a perfect life would also die. From the beginning man chose to reject God. Our self-preservation became more important than anything else.

Genesis 3:7-9 *“Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”* Instead of walking with God they hid themselves. They now felt guilt and shame. The perfect relationship with God had been broken.

But why make them leave the garden? Prior to their disobedience the garden had been a place of perfect joy and innocence. Then for a brief time it became a place of fear, trembling, and hiding.

To restore perfection, Adam and Eve had to leave. Selfishness and fear has no place in a perfect community.

But what is so amazing is that even in our state of blatant selfishness; God still wants us back. God wants to give you and me an opportunity to return to the garden; a place we can and will live with Him forever.

Regardless of what Adam and Eve did God still desires a loving relationship with us.

God could have looked upon Adam and Eve and said “Oops, My Bad,” but first it wasn’t God’s bad it was man’s. Man made the wrong choice. God gave man freedom and with freedom comes responsibility. Each day we have to decide; each moment of every day we have to decide.

Yes, Adam and Eve made the wrong choice, but God still seeks to have that perfect relationship with Him. He desires it so much He sent His son to prove this. God desires to commune with us, but it is you and I that have to make the choice to commune with Him.

More often than not we have so much activity crammed in our lives there is little if any time to have a real intimate relationship with God. We believe we have to do this ... and do that ... we are busy hiding from God

behind all we do and when our backs are up against the wall and we have nowhere to turn we look up towards heaven and pray “Oops, my bad! Now come help me and this is how and what I want you to do.” That’s not a relationship that’s a consumer.

We all have an opportunity to return to the garden to walk with God, to commune with God, to have an intimate relationship with Him, but it comes through our choices and it comes with a price. The question is are we, are you willing to pay the price. Jesus made the choice and it cost Him His life. The choice is yours; God’s not going to force you. God believes you’re someone of worth; He desires a relationship with you. The choice is left up to you.

ⁱ Glimpses Through The Dark Glass, Larry E. Powell, CSS Publishing Co., Inc., 1990, 1-55673-167-1

ⁱⁱ Randy Frazee, *The heart of the Story; God’s Masterful Design to Restore His People*, (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2011) pp28-33.