

Adam: The purpose of man

Everything made has been made with a purpose and when that purpose has been forgotten or usurped then the particular item is normally rendered redundant or worthless. However if the item's purpose is rediscovered then the worth of that item is also rediscovered. If the creator of an item discovers his item lying around not being used due to the lack of knowledge of how it should be used or what it's used for then he would redeem it to restore it to what it's supposed to be. So it is with man and God when man lost His purpose due to sin.

Genesis 1: 26 – 31

1) Made in the image and likeness of God

- Genesis 5: 1 When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God.
- Genesis 9: 6 Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.
 - Image and likeness are used interchangeably in these verses hence it's obvious that Hebrew parallelism is used in these verses.
- We were made to be the image bearers of God.
- This is the first and foremost purpose of man.
- Man is not a god, a demi-god or a mini-god.
 - Many Bible interpreters mistakenly use Psalm 82 and Jesus' quote from Psalm 82 where he says "you are gods" to refer to us as little gods.
 - The judges and leaders in Israel were referred to as gods due to their divine commission as judges.
- Having the image of God we merely reflect who God is through the godly character that He has given us.
- When Adam sinned He became sinful losing the image of God as God is without sin.
 - Sin, no matter how small, does not reflect the image of God.
- It is no wonder that God was grieved – sorry, repentant, comforted – that he had made man.
 - God was grieved and comforted that He had a plan to restore His image.
- The salvation of God is that His image may be restored to man
 - Romans 8: 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.
 - Salvation isn't merely about getting into heaven but about changing to become like Jesus who is the exact image of God.
 - Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.
- The culmination of our transformation to being image bearers of God is when Jesus comes again and we'll be change in the twinkling of an eye.
- 1 Corinthians 15: 49 – 52 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

2) The responsibility of man

- Although man is considered the crown of creation he has also been given a greater responsibility than any other aspect of creation.
- Although man was given dominion over all of creation along with it he was given the responsibility to care for creation
- We can see how man has shirked that responsibility and how the resources of the earth have been exploited to the very detriment of man himself.
- Sin has certainly caused problems in this world by man either shirking his responsibility or usurping it.
- Man was given the authority to rule over creation but as a carrier of the image of God.
- Once man had lost that image he did things according to his own understanding having lost the mind of Christ.
- Salvation is also the restoration of the godly stewardship in all aspects of our God given responsibility.
 - 1 Corinthians 6: 1 – 2 If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!
- In the list of the qualities of an elder in 1 Timothy 3: 1 – 13 and Titus 1: 5 – 9 Paul is listing the qualities of godly leadership – the restoration of godly responsibility which reflects the image of God.
- Jesus taught that the last will be first and the first will be last, that those who lead are to be the servants of all, that He himself demonstrated godly rule in being a servant rather than being served.
- Godly responsibility pervades every aspect of life including caring for our environment.

3) The providence of God for man

- God gave them all the food that they needed as well as provided for them in every way.
- When Adam sinned they were cast out of the garden of Eden and were told that they would eat by the sweat of their brow. (Genesis 3: 19)
- Poverty, hunger, homelessness and other aspects of human need were introduced into the world.
- All this is a far cry from man reflecting the image of God. God is not a destitute God.
- God's greatest providence for man was the provision of a saviour to restore him to the image of God.
- Along with that comes the provision of man's needs.
- This doesn't mean that God's going to make us all rich. It means that we'll see God's hand of provision to meet our needs as we trust Him.
- It means that we have a sure hope that we will receive all our riches unlimited but in heaven not on earth.
 - Matthew 6: 19 – 20 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.
- While we're on earth we have a heavenly father who does provide for us
 - Matthew 6: 25 – 26 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
 - Matthew 6: 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.