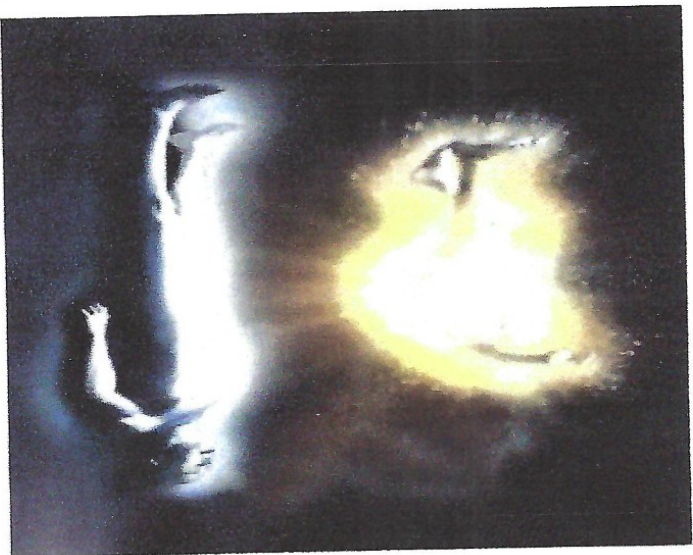


THE CREATION OF MAN

“The Spirit-Man Resides Within
Both Male And Female”



AGAPE LOVE MINISTRY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

CHAPTER 3 - Thursday-ZOOM -7:00 p.m.

Pastor Rudolph Maybell

THE CREATION OF MAN

THE SPIRIT-MAN RESIDES WITHIN BOTH MALE AND FEMALE.

Men can know the true meaning of their existence only by understanding who they are in relation to God's creation of mankind as a whole. They need to see how they fit into God's great picture of humanity, which He designed and then constructed when the world began.

The first thing we must realize is that there is a distinction between being *man* and being *male*, and that each has unique purposes for being. What do I mean by this? The account of Creation in the first two chapters of Genesis reveals the essential difference. Genesis 1 is a declaration chapter. It declares what God did in Creation. Genesis 2 is an explanation chapter. It explains how God accomplished His act of Creation and shows how the creation of man relates to the creation of man's two physical manifestations: male and female.

In Genesis 1:26–28, we read,

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule ["have dominion" NKJV] over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it."

CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

The first thing we learn from this passage is that man was made in the image of God. When God made man, He essentially drew man out of Himself, so that the essence of man would be just like Him. Since "God

is spirit" (John 4:24), He created man as spirit. Spirit is eternal. Man was created as an eternal being, because God is eternal.

It is important to recognize that we are not yet talking about male and female. It was mankind that God created in His image. Man is spirit, and spirits have no gender. The Bible never talks about a male or female spirit.

What was the reason God created mankind in His image? He didn't create any of the animals or plants in His image. He didn't even make angels in His image. Man is the only being of God's creation that is like Him.

TO BE HIS OFFSPRING

God created mankind for relationship with Himself—to be His family, His offspring, spiritual children of God. The nature of God is to love and to give. Since "God is love" (1 John 4:8, 16), He wanted a being who could be the object of His love and grace. He wanted man to be the recipient of all that He is and all that He has.

The fact that man was created in God's image is an awesome revelation about our relationship to Him. God desired children who would be like Himself. Yet He didn't just desire it,

then walk away without doing anything about it. He conceived His desire and made it a reality. He became "pregnant" with what He was desiring. Once God conceived, He began to prepare for the "birth" or creation of man. Before there was anything at all on the earth, there was God, and God was pregnant with us.

What do we call a woman who is pregnant? Expectant. God was in expectation of man's birth, so right away He began to prepare a "nursery" for His children, even before there was any physical evidence of His offspring. God's desire for His children caused Him to create the universe in preparation for their arrival.

Let me tell you what we've been taught, and it's not biblical. We've been taught that God created the universe, and then He decided to make man,

That's not the way it happened. God first decided to make man, and that was the reason for the creation of the world.

When my wife and I were expecting our first child, we had the nursery fixed up before the baby arrived. I remember the day it was finished and we stood looking at the whole thing. We had thoroughly cleaned the room. We had the new crib, pillow, sheets, powder, baby oil, diapers, baby food, and everything else all ready. We had little pictures on the walls. There was no baby, but everything the baby would need and use was ready. Then we stepped back, looked at the room, and said, "This is good." What were we doing? Preparing. That's exactly what God was doing in Genesis 1 when He made the world in preparation for the creation of man.

Just as a new baby is at the center of his parents' thoughts, mankind was and is at the center of God's thoughts. The wonder of this idea struck King David one day. He said, "*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?*" (Ps. 8:3-4). David asked God, in effect, "Why are You thinking only about us?" Although the psalm doesn't give us God's answer, I think His reply would be, "Every time you see the moon and the stars, and everything else I've created, I want you to know that all that exists because of you."

We are so important to God that He created the entire universe for us. Not only that, He created it with great care to make sure we had the best environment in which to live. Everything God created keeps everything else in balance. For example, when He made our solar system, He created the sun to be a light for us, and then He carefully placed the planets around it. I

MAN IS THE REASON FOR THE UNIVERSE.

can imagine God making adjustments so that the solar system would be just right for us. I see Him pushing the earth out a bit, then saying, "No, it's too close to the sun. That's too hot. Let's pull it back a little. Now it's too cold. They'll freeze. Ah, this is just right. The conditions are perfect. The baby will do fine." Then I imagine Him saying, "Children like colors, so let's cause some vivid flowers to spring up from the ground. That's a beautiful rose; they'll like that. Let's put some colors on the fish, too. Now, we've

already created the sunset, but let's make the ozone layer run right past the light so that it changes color. Let the light come through the atmosphere and the stratosphere, so that when it hits them it will turn purple, yellow, blue, and pink." I see Him thinking about man's future physical needs. "Now we must have a lot of food for the baby. We'll need some fruits and vegetables. We also need to separate the salt water from the fresh, so that the baby can drink. Now—everything is in order. The nursery is ready!"

I submit to you that man is the reason for the universe. I didn't say man is the center of it. Humanists say that man is the center of the universe. That is wrong. God is the center of everything. He "[upholds] *all things by the word of his power*" (Heb. 1:3 KJV). It is He who is the center of life. Everything He created and every movement of our being exists in Him. Yet because we are His offspring, He created the universe just for us.

When God finished creating the world, He called everything good. (See Genesis 1:4–25.) I believe He said this because everything was ready. It was after God called the physical world good that He said, "*Let us make man*" (v. 26). What's so interesting about this is that the heavens and the earth were created first because of their purpose. Some people might say, "Well, if the heavens and earth were created first, does that mean that they are more important than man?" No. They were just leading up to the advent of man. Their purpose was to be a perfect environment for God's children. When my wife and I were getting the nursery ready, we had the crib, powder, and all the other material things in the room first. Did that mean they were more important than the baby? No. Those things were there only because of the baby. The same is true concerning man's relationship to the physical world. Ephesians 1:4 explains the order of priority in this way: "*For he chose us in him before the creation of the world*" (emphasis added).

TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM

Another reason man was created in God's image was to have fellowship with Him, like a close family relationship. The only reason man can have this fellowship with God is that God made man to be spirit, just as He is Spirit. "*God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24).

Although God is the Creator, He has always emphasized that He is man's Father. It wasn't His desire to be primarily thought of by man as an awesome God or a "*consuming fire*" (Deut. 4:24). Although at times it is difficult for our religious minds to grasp this concept, God wants us to approach Him as a child would a loving father.

God and humanity were made for one another. That is why, no matter how many relationships you have or how many gifts you buy for others, in the end, you aren't going to be satisfied until you love God. God must have the primary place in your life. Your love was designed to be fulfilled in Him.

TO MANIFEST HIS NATURE

God created man in His image so that man could also reflect His character and personality. When God created man, heaven and earth stood in awe of this amazing being who manifested the Creator's very nature and reflected His glory.

Consider this remarkable verse in Psalm 82: "*I said, 'You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High'*" (v. 6 NKJV). This verse is speaking of mankind. It calls us "*gods*" and "*children of the Most High*." Why are we called little gods? It is because as children of the Most High God, we have His nature and share His purposes. Physically, we are children of men, but spiritually, we are children of God.

Two foundational aspects of God's character are love and light, and man is meant to exhibit these qualities. However, man's being made in God's image does not mean that man can reveal these qualities apart from Him.

**PHYSICALLY, WE ARE CHILDREN OF MEN,
BUT SPIRITUALLY, WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD.**

Man was always meant to reveal God's nature in the context of being continually connected to Him in fellowship. First John 4:16 says, "*Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him,*" and Proverbs 20:27 says, "*The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord*" (KJV). This means that when you have fellowship with God, you reflect His light. You show the nature of God, for "*God is light; in him there is no darkness at all*" (1 John 1:5).

God also created man to demonstrate His wisdom and the goodness of His precepts. This purpose is part of God's eternal plans, and it culminated in the coming of Christ Jesus and the birth of the church:

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Eph. 3:10-11)

TO SHARE HIS RULE

God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule [*"have dominion"* NKJV]" (Gen. 1:26, emphasis added). Man was created to share God's authority. God never wanted to rule by Himself. Love doesn't think in those terms. You can always tell a person who is full of love. He doesn't want to do anything for his purposes alone. A selfish person wants all the glory, all the credit, all the recognition, all the attention, all the power, all the authority, all the rights, and all the privileges. But a person of love wants others to share in what he has.

Note that the word "man" in Genesis 1:26 refers to the spirit-being created in God's image. The purpose of dominion was given to man the spirit. This was before the creation of male and female, which we will discuss in more detail shortly. Therefore, spiritually, both male and female have the same responsibility toward the earth because rule was given to the spirit-man, which resides in both of them.

FOR HEAVEN HE CREATED MAN FOR THE EARTH.

The account of Creation reveals an interesting fact that we often overlook today. God didn't create man for heaven. He created man for the earth. God is the Ruler of heaven, and He made man to express His authority on earth. He said, "I want what's happening in heaven to happen in the created world; I want My rule to extend to another realm, but I don't want to do it directly. I want man to share My rule." The plan of Creation was this: as God ruled the unseen realm in heaven, man would rule the visible realm on earth, with God and man enjoying continual communion through their spiritual natures. God said to man, in

essence, "Let Me rule through you so you can appreciate, enjoy, and share in rulership and know how it feels to be 'little gods.'"

It's important to realize that man was created not only for fellowship with God but also with a responsibility to carry out. I want to emphasize this point because sometimes people use their worship of God as an excuse for negligence in other areas of their lives. They say, "I was created only to love the Lord, worship the Lord, and praise the Lord." These things are good and necessary. However, you can't spend all your time in the sanctuary worshipping, praising, and singing. There comes a time when you have to carry out your responsibility to demonstrate what your relationship with the Lord means in terms of living and ruling in the world.

Man has been given the freedom to exhibit creativity while governing the physical earth and all the other living things that dwell in it. The earth is to be ruled over, taken care of, fashioned, and molded by beings made in the image of their Creator. In this way, man is meant to reflect the loving and creative Spirit of God.

TO EXPAND THE FAMILY BUSINESS

We also need to understand that when God created man to share His authority, it was in the context of man's relationship to Him as His offspring. God didn't create man to be a servant but to be a son who is involved in running the family business. This was His plan for mankind from the beginning. He has always wanted His children to help Him fulfill His purposes.

This means that God doesn't want man to work *for* Him; He wants man to work *with* Him. The Bible says that we are "God's fellow workers" (2 Cor. 6:1), or "workers together with him" (KJV). In the original Greek, "fellow workers" means those who "cooperate," who "help with," who "work together."

It's common to hear people say, "I'm working for Jesus." If you are working *for* Jesus, you are still a hired hand. When you understand the family business, then you become a worker alongside Christ.

TO RELY ON THE FATHER FOR PERSONAL NEEDS

What are some of the implications of our being God's children, working in His business? First, we don't have to worry about our day-to-day

living expenses. If your father and mother owned a prosperous business, and they put you in the business to run it, should you wonder where you will get food to eat? Should you wonder where you will get water to drink? Should you wonder where you're going to get clothes to wear? No, you are family, and you are going to be provided for.

If you are hired to work in the business only as an employee, then you don't know the company's true financial condition. In addition, if you want more money, you have to ask for a raise. You have to work hard to receive a bonus. You have to impress the boss so that you can get just a little increase in salary. You may also live in fear of being fired. However, if you are a son, you know just how well the company is doing.

In God's company, there's always plenty of provision to go around, and you can rely on that with confidence. Jesus said,

Do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matt. 6:31-33)

Jesus didn't say, "The boss knows that you need these things." He said, "Your Father knows that you need these things." We can trust our Father, the wealthy Businessman, to provide for all our needs.

TO RELY ON THE FATHER FOR KINGDOM NEEDS

When Jesus knew that His earthly ministry was about to end and that He would be crucified, resurrected, and then return to His heavenly Father, He talked to His disciples

IN GOD'S COMPANY, THERE'S ALWAYS PLENTY OF PROVISION TO GO AROUND.

about their role in advancing the family business on earth. "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned

from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15). What was Jesus' reason for calling His disciples His friends? He said, in effect, "The servant

doesn't know what the boss is doing. I call you friends because I have told you everything the Father has revealed to Me."

Think about how large and prosperous God's business is. It is so big that God says He can supply all your needs (Phil. 4:19). I don't think that in this context He is referring to your smaller needs, such as a house, a car, clothes, or food. Remember that He told us we don't even have to ask for those things.

GOD DESIRES TO EXTEND HIS RULE FROM THE UNSEEN TO THE SEEN.

Therefore, He must be talking about leads for further investment for the purpose of expanding the company business. He is saying, in essence, "The company has so much collateral that My children never have to worry about materials for further investment."

I believe that if we will get busy spreading the company's influence and building its interests, our access to resources will be unclogged. (See Matthew 6:33.) God created man to be His offspring and to work in His business, and He has all the resources we need to fulfill this purpose.

TO EXECUTE HIS RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

Man was created in God's image for yet another reason: to execute His righteous judgment. In all the prophecies about the Messiah, especially in Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel, you will find that this was also the main purpose for Christ's coming to earth. It was the result of His life, ministry, death, and resurrection. All these things were connected to His fulfilling His purpose of executing righteous judgment on the earth.

The reason this is also the purpose of man is that it is God's intention that we rule the earth through the Spirit of Christ. Recall that, through man, God desires to extend His rule from the unseen to the seen. He wants to expose His character, nature, principles, precepts, and righteous judgment to the visible world. Even though the fall of man brought humanity out from under God's purposes, Christ redeemed us so we could be restored to His original plans for us. Dominion over the earth, including exercising righteous judgment, is not a temporary but an eternal assignment from God to man.

Because of the Fall, when we die, our spirits will separate from our bodies, and we will go to be with God in heaven. Again, it was never God's intention that man would work in heaven. Even though in our spiritual growth and development we will learn to have dominion over spiritual as well as physical things (see 1 Corinthians 6:3), God gave man the earth to rule. Since God's purposes never change, He made provision in His plan of redemption for man to fulfill that purpose.

God made us a promise. He said that when we come to the head office (heaven), we will stay there only for a while. There will come a Day when our bodies will be resurrected and rejoined with our spirits, so that He can send us back to finish the job. (See 1 Corinthians 15:42–44, 52–53; Isaiah 65:17.)

If you are finding it hard to take all this in, read the book of Revelation. God keeps on talking about thrones, reigning with Him, and ruling with Him. The reason we will reign is that Jesus came to bring righteous judgment back to the earth. He came to bring it back to where it was supposed to be in the first place. That has always been God's purpose for man. God made you a manager, and He always fulfills His eternal purposes.

He isn't going to raise you from the dead just to live with Him forever. He's going to raise you from the dead so that you can get on with your work. That's why the Scripture says that when Jesus returns to earth and we are resurrected, we will reign with Him (Rev. 5:10). *Reign* means what? To have dominion, to administrate.

CREATED MALE AND FEMALE

Therefore, God created man so that He could have someone to love, someone who would work with Him in His purposes for the earth. Yet the earth is a physical entity, and man is spirit. The earth needed someone with a physical body to live in it and take care of it. God knew this would be necessary, and that is a primary reason He created the male and the female.

"So God created man in his own image,

in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Gen. 1:27).
After God created man, He placed him in two physical "houses": male and

female. This means that man the spirit exists within every male and every female. All of us—males and females alike—are man. The essence of both male and female is the resident spirit within them, called "man." Genesis 5:1–2 says, *"When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them [together] 'man.'"*

Why did God take man, who is spirit, and put him in two separate physical entities rather than just one? It was because He wanted man to fulfill two distinct purposes. We'll explore the significance of this fact in more detail in coming chapters. For now, we need to remember that the spirit-man has no gender and that, in order to fulfill His eternal purposes, God used two physical forms to express the spiritual being made in His image.

Therefore, whether you are male or female, the person who lives inside you—the essential you—is the spirit-man. Although males and females have differences, they are of the same essence.

Since human beings fellowship with God and worship Him through their spirits, this means that men and women both have direct spiritual access to God and are individually responsible to Him.

"CREATED" VERSUS "MADE"

Genesis 1:26–27 implies that the process through which God created man was different from the process through which He produced the male and female. We can think of the distinction in this way: God *created* man, but He *made* male and female. The words for "*made*" in verse 26 and "*created*" in verse 27 are different words in the Hebrew. "*Make*" comes from *asah*, which means to form out of something that is already there. "*Created*" comes from *bara*, which means to form out of nothing. These verses say that God *created* man in His own image, but that God also *made* man. God used both of these words in reference to how He brought man into existence. In effect, He was saying, "I will both create him and make him. I will create him out of nothing and I will make him out of something."

Recall that God created the spirit-man out of His own being rather than out of anything from the physical world. Man was not created from matter; man came out of God's Spirit. Therefore, the part of man that was

made from "nothing" came out of God. God spoke him into existence, similar to the way in which He spoke, "Let there be light, and there was light" (Gen. 1:3). Yet when God made male and female, He used material from the physical world that He had already created.

Recognizing this distinction is critical to understanding our purpose in the world as both spiritual beings made in God's image and physical beings who carry out man's God-ordained purposes in the world. It is also essential to the male's understanding of who he is and how he is meant to relate to the female. We will see the practical implications of these purposes in the next chapter.

GOD CREATED MAN, BUT HE MADE MALE AND FEMALE.

PRINCIPLES

1. Men can know the true meaning of their existence only by understanding who they are in relation to God's creation of mankind as a whole.
2. There is a distinction between being *man* and being *male*.
3. Mankind was created in the image of God.
4. God created man to be spirit, as He is Spirit.
5. Man was created to be God's offspring, to have fellowship with Him, to manifest His nature, to share His rule, to expand the family business, to rely on the Father for personal needs and for kingdom needs, and to execute God's righteous judgment.
6. After God created man, He placed him in two physical "houses": male and female.
7. Man—the spirit-man—resides within both male and female.
8. God created man, but He *made* male and female.
9. God made male and female because He wanted man to fulfill two distinct purposes on the physical earth.

STUDY QUESTIONS

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

1. Why do you think God created both men and women to live in this world?

EXPLORING GOD'S PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

2. Genesis 1:26–27 tells us that man (mankind) was made in the _____ of God. Mankind was created as _____ since "God is spirit" (John 4:24). (pp. 61–62)
3. A spirit has no _____. (p. 62)
4. Man was also created as an _____ because God is _____. (p. 62)
5. There are several principal reasons why God created mankind in His image. What is the first reason? (p. 62)
6. God created the earth in _____ for the arrival of mankind. (p. 63)
7. Just as a new baby is at the _____ of his parents' _____, _____ was and is at the _____ of God's _____. (p. 63)
8. We are so important to God that He created the entire universe for us. He created it with _____ to make sure we had the best _____ in which to live. (p. 63)

9. In what way does Ephesians 1:4 tell us the order of priority of man-kind and the physical world? (p. 64)
10. What is the second principal reason God created mankind in His image? (p. 64)
11. Although God is the _____, He has always emphasized that He is mankind's _____. (p. 65)
12. How does God want us to approach Him? (p. 65)
13. Your love was _____ to be _____ in Him. (p. 65)
14. The third principal reason God created mankind in His image was to _____ His _____, to reflect His _____ and _____. (p. 65)
15. What two foundational aspects of God's character is mankind meant to exhibit? (p. 65)
16. What is the fourth principal reason God created mankind? (p. 66)
17. What was the plan of Creation? (p. 66)
18. The fifth reason God created mankind was to _____ (p. 67)

19. God doesn't want mankind to work _____ Him; He wants mankind to work _____ Him to help fulfill His purposes. (p. 67)
20. Sixth, mankind was created by God to _____ on the _____ for _____. (p. 67)
21. In God's "company," there is always plenty of _____ to go around. You can rely on that truth with _____. (p. 68)
22. What is the seventh reason mankind was created by God? (p. 68)
23. Since God has already promised to provide for our physical needs, what needs are being referred to in Philippians 4:19 that God says He will supply for us? (p. 69)
24. The eighth reason mankind was created in God's image was to _____ His _____. (p. 69)
25. What is the primary reason God created the male and the female? [See Genesis 1:27.] (pp. 70-71)
26. Why did God put the spirit-man in two separate physical entities, rather than one? (p. 71)

CONCLUSION

The creation of man was carried out by God in two different ways. First, He created mankind the spirit, and then He placed this spirit in the

AGAPE LOVE W/PF FAMILY MINISTRY

Invite A Friend to BIBLE STUDY via ZOOM!



ZOOM MEETING LINK

Thursdays – Woman: 6:00 p.m. – Men: 7:00 p.m.

CLICK: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8709022291>

MEETING ID: 870-902-2291

PASSWORD: 222222

Pastor Rudolph & Lady Zee Maybell

**“Becoming what God has purposed for us,
Is an act of Worship to our Creator”**

two physical entities or “houses” of male and female. Recognizing the distinction between the spirit-man and male and female is critical to understanding our purpose as spiritual beings made in God’s image *and* physical beings who carry out our God-ordained purposes in the world. It is also an essential foundation to the male’s understanding of who he is and how he is meant to relate to the female.

APPLYING GOD’S PRINCIPLES TO YOUR LIFE

THINKING IT OVER

- * Read Psalm 8:3–6. Think about the great worth with which God values you and the fact that you are at the center of God’s thoughts!
- * In what way should you treat those of the opposite gender given the fact that both men and women are made in God’s image, have the spirit-man residing within them, and are spiritually responsible before Him?

PRAYING ABOUT IT

- * Do you generally think of God as a loving heavenly Father, a disapproving and condemning ruler, or in some other way? This week, make it your practice to focus on God as your heavenly Father who desires to give you all that He is and all that He has.
- * We can reflect God’s nature and character only as we are continuously connected to Him in fellowship. Seek to increase your fellowship with God by continuously offering Him both the joys and pains, the triumphs and sorrows of your life, and by praising Him for His love and grace.

ACTING ON GOD’S TRUTH

- * Do you trust God to provide for your physical and spiritual needs, or do you think you need to supply these on your own? Memorize Matthew 6:31–33 and Philippians 4:19 and affirm these truths to yourself whenever you are tempted to worry about your life.
- * How much consideration have you given to your God-given responsibility to exercise dominion over the earth? Write down several ways you think God wants you to fulfil that responsibility in your own sphere of influence.