



In His Image

If you would indulge me here, I would like to venture a little into speculation. I usually try to keep strictly to what the Word says, but our God is so beyond all we can comprehend, sometimes we are only left to imagine. At least until all is revealed to us. I will leave it to you to judge whether my wonderings could be true or not.

Genesis 1:26 tells us the beginnings of mankind on this earth. The Word says that we were created from the dust of the earth; created in His own image and with His likeness. We were given dominion to rule over all on the planet just as God rules over the universe. Not only that but I believe He has loved us more than all of His creation. After all, He not only suffered humiliation, but a ghastly death to restore us to fellowship with Him.

Have you ever stopped to think what "His likeness" really means? God is not just an old man sitting on a throne and imposing His will on others; much as Michaelangelo depicted Him on the ceiling of the Sistine chapel. Scripture clearly tells us that God is a Spirit.

How then are we made in His image? He created a vast universe but it only exists to reveal the beauty and majesty of His handiwork. It cannot admire Him or thank Him for their existence. They are just there to serve as a reflection of His glory. That they do quite remarkably.

He created all the angels and much more. We know He gave them free will also. The Word says a third of them rebelled. All creation was made for a specific purpose. We know there are warrior angels, messenger angels and so forth. The four living creatures around the throne were created to do one thing. "They do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" Rev. 4:8 It does not say what they might be feeling; just what they are doing.

God's creation has taken all shapes, sizes, purposes and levels of consciousness. I do not think it was just man's physical formation that makes Him to be in God's image. That is too mundane a thing. Even though Jesus took human flesh upon Himself, do we really think that was His initial essence? Scripture tells us "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:24

Everything that God created He spoke into being. Everything except man. The Word says, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." Gen. 2:7 God breathed life into man and in so doing He gave Him part of Himself. I believe that breath of life gave man the image of God.

So just what is that likeness that God breathed into man? I believe it was the ability to love; to love completely and selflessly. The apostle John tells us in John 4:8 that God is love. The apostle Paul tries well to explain all the intricacies of love in 1 Cor. 13. Even in this, I do not believe he came close to explain the depth of love God has for us.

The world follows a misplaced and misguided form of love. Although it may be altogether genuine in their hearts, it is not what God intended and cannot be fruitful; maturing to the limits of its extent. Satan is always trying to distort the truth of God.

What did Jesus say were the greatest commandments and the scope of the whole law? "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Oh, to love as we have been loved by Him. Could this be the true likeness of God that He breathed into us? If it is, may we all strive to reveal to the world our true likeness; the likeness Jesus reminded us of in His sacrifice.

Father, our heart longs to love as You have loved us, but it falls so pitifully short. Even our minds are limited in knowing the extremes suffered by our Jesus; all for us. Let us be mindful of the limits we would go for ourself and extend it to others as well.