

# Created After the Image of God

## Lesson 2 – The Purpose for Creating Man

September 15, 2019

“... and to put on the new self, **created to be like God** in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:24)

“... and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge **in the image of its Creator**” (Colossians 3:10)

1. A potter forms a lump of clay into a vessel or pot to be used as the potter pleases
  - a. We were literally created as vessels of clay to be used by God however He pleases
    - i. “Then the LORD God **formed a man from the dust of the ground** and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7)
    - ii. “**You turn things upside down**, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘**You did not make me**’? Can the pot say to the potter, ‘**You know nothing**’?” (Isaiah 29:16)
    - iii. “**Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker**, those who are nothing but potsherds among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, ‘**What are you making?**’ Does your work say, ‘**The potter has no hands**’?” (Isaiah 45:9)
    - iv. “**But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God?** Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘**Why did you make me like this?**’ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?” (Romans 9:20-21)
  - b. We “turn things upside down” when we (as a pot) argue back with the Potter
    - i. Atheists (those who believe there is no God) essentially say “You did not make me”
    - ii. When we think we know better than God we are saying “You know nothing”
    - iii. Not submitting to how we were created is saying “Why did you make me like this?”
  - c. A clay pot doesn’t have its own will, doesn’t do what it wants, doesn’t complain, doesn’t boast, doesn’t seek its own glory—it simply allows itself to be used how it was created
  - d. We were created to be good husbands, good wives, and good parents at home; to work with our hands and provide for our family; to serve in our church as we have been uniquely gifted.
2. The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5-7 summarizes how to live as we were created
  - a. “**You are the salt of the earth**. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? **It is no longer good for anything**, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.” (Matthew 5:13)
    - i. If the purpose of salt is to give flavor to food, what purpose does it serve if it loses its flavor?
    - ii. Likewise, what good is man if he is no longer serving the purpose for which he was created?
  - b. Christ’s teaching, particularly in the Sermon on the Mount, is the truth of how to live according to the purpose which we were created—to be like salt with flavor
  - c. “So in everything, **do to others what you would have them do to you**, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:12)
    - i. We are to treat others as we would want to be treated because we all bear the image of God
    - ii. It’s the image of God that gives us the wisdom to always know how to treat others
3. The problem is that mankind is no longer functioning the way he was originally created to function
  - a. We grow up being accustomed to the way things are, and assume this is how it has always been
  - b. We think that our current state of being is the normal state
  - c. We don’t think anything is wrong with us and don’t think that we need any help
  - d. We believe that our life belongs to us and that we have the right to live how we want
  - e. We don’t want God telling us how to live, we think God is interfering with our lives

- f. The following statements sound unreasonable and extreme which indicates that we really are fallen from our original state of creation
  - i. "For whoever wants to **save their life** will lose it, but whoever **loses their life** for me will find it." (Matthew 16:25)
  - ii. "Anyone who **loves their life** will lose it, while anyone who **hates their life** in this world will keep it for eternal life." (John 12:25)
  - iii. These statements are not extreme is because our lives never have been our own—our lives have always belonged to God
  - iv. To "lose our life" means that we give our lives back to God who gave us life in the first place
  - v. If we give this life back to Him then He will give us eternal life with Him—if we live without Him then we truly will live without Him
- g. "For in him we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28)
  - i. We are alive only because God gave us life and continues to give us life each day
  - ii. We can see, hear, move, think, and function only because God is allowing us to
  - iii. Each day is a blessing that God is allowing, but we take our days for granted, expecting to be alive tomorrow
  - iv. We not only live from day-to-day but from breath-to-breath and from heartbeat-to-heartbeat
  - v. The rich think they did it themselves but what if they were disabled? What if they had been born with a chronic mental disorder? What if they had been born with a disease that prevented them from having the strength to work?
- h. God created us weak, frail, and completely dependent upon Him
  - i. Even things so small as microscopic organisms and diseases can quickly take our lives
  - ii. "Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass ... Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:10, 12)
  - iii. Our lives pass by so quickly, we need to make every day count for God
- i. God is not in a distance watching—He is actually sustaining all things
  - i. "He is before all things, and **in him all things hold together.**" (Colossians 1:17)
  - ii. "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, **sustaining all things** by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven." (Hebrews 1:3)
  - iii. The longer I walk with God and draw closer to Him, the more I see Him working in my life
  - iv. After this life is over, we will be shocked to learn just how involved God really was in our lives
4. Jesus Christ is the prototype and example of how we are to live
  - a. He became a man and lived without sin just as man had been created to live
  - b. He is called "the last Adam" (1 Corinthians 15:45), He lived as Adam had been created to live
  - c. He lived and functioned the most normally of any human ever
5. God is glorified and we find fulfillment when we submit to being used as we were created
  - a. The more we are restored to the image of God the more we glorify God
    - i. "A man ought not to cover his head, since **he is the image and glory of God**; but woman is the glory of man." (1 Corinthians 11:7)
    - ii. "For all have sinned and **fall short of the glory of God.**" (Romans 3:23)
    - iii. We glorify God when we joyfully submit to how we were created
  - b. Fulfillment, contentment, and joy comes by submitting ourselves to be used as we were created