

Created After the Image of God

Lesson 13 – Trusting God

December 8, 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. “Then the man and his wife heard the sound of **the LORD God as he was walking in the garden** in the cool of the day” (Genesis 3:8)
 - a. “**Enoch walked faithfully with God**” (Genesis 5:22, 24)
 - b. “**Noah** was a righteous man, **blameless** among the people of his time, and **he walked faithfully with God.**” (Genesis 6:9)
 - c. “When **Abram** was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, ‘I am God Almighty; **walk before me faithfully and be blameless.**’” (Genesis 17:1)
2. “So the LORD God **banished him from the Garden of Eden** to work the ground from which he had been taken.” (Gen 3:23)
 - a. We’re no longer in the garden, and we’re no longer walking with God as we were created
 - b. Banishing man from the garden was as if saying, “Let’s see how you do on your own!”
 - c. This cursed world in which we live is the ultimate demonstration of “tough love” on us
 - d. God allows us to endure pain and suffering to teach us that we can’t survive without Him
 - e. God allows us to be put in situations that pressure us to call upon Him and trust Him
3. God created us to walk in a relationship with Him and relationships are built upon trust
 - a. Pastor Ryan Polk once said, we don’t have good relationships by reading books about others
 - b. Much of my Christian life, I read the Bible but wasn’t walking in a close relationship with God
4. Relationships are not one-sided—we not only trust Him but we must be found trustworthy by Him
 - a. I’ve heard Jim White say that the Christian life is summarized in two words: Trust and Obey
 - b. Our basis for trusting Him is proving ourselves trustworthy and obedient to Him
 - c. Why should He show Himself dependable to us if we haven’t proven dependable to Him?
 - d. Our obedience and trustworthiness is tested by making sacrifices—it’s not really obedience when it’s convenient, comfortable, and easy
5. As God’s children, we relate to God the Father as in a parent/child relationship
 - a. “**If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children**, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:11)
 - b. “**As a father has compassion on his children**, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.” (Psalm 103:13)
 - i. How do you feel when your children fuss because they don’t get their way?
 - ii. But what about when your children are well-behaved and have good attitudes?
 - iii. God is a Person and is pleased when we love others but angry when we’re selfish
 - c. “Know then in your heart that **as a man disciplines his son**, so the LORD your God disciplines you.” (Deuteronomy 8:5)
 - i. “**Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.** So be earnest and repent.” (Revelation 3:19)
 - ii. “**If you are not disciplined**—and everyone undergoes discipline—**then you are not legitimate**, not true sons and daughters at all.” (Hebrews 12:8)
 - iii. Being disciplined by God is one of the greatest assurances of salvation I’ve experienced
6. We all want protection, provision, and praise—but do we seek it from people or from God?
 - a. Is the source of our protection, provision, and praise here on earth or from heaven?

- b. Protection – “When I am afraid, **I put my trust in you ... in God I trust** and am not afraid. What can man do to me?” (Psalm 56:3, 11); “I will say of the LORD, **‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’**” (Psalm 91:2); “The LORD is good, **a refuge** in times of trouble. **He cares for those who trust in him**” (Nahum 1:7)
- c. Provision – food, water, clothing, shelter, transportation
- d. Praise – being liked, honored, respected, recognized, included, applauded
 - i. “How can you believe since you accept **glory from one another** but do not seek the **glory that comes from the only God?**” (John 5:44)
 - ii. “For they loved **human praise** more than **praise from God.**” (John 12:43)
 - iii. “Such a person’s **praise is not from other people, but from God.**” (Romans 2:29)
 - iv. “We are not trying to **please people but God**, who tests our hearts.” (1 Thessalonians 2:4)
7. “**Trust in the LORD** with all your heart and **lean not on your own understanding**” (Proverbs 3:5)
 - a. “**You will keep in perfect peace** those whose minds are steadfast, **because they trust in you.**” (Isaiah 26:3)
 - b. “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, **obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.**” (Hebrews 11:8)
 - c. We want to know God’s will because the unknown means having to trust God
 - i. I’m a planner by nature—I want everything planned, organized, and prepared
 - ii. Trusting God means that things won’t necessarily turn out the way we want or expect
 - iii. I’ve found that many times things turn out in a way I never even thought or imagined
8. Why are we in such a hurry, multi-task, and increase productivity? God can accomplish more in one second than we can in our entire lives! Why don’t we just slow down and trust Him?
9. “... **you of little faith?** So do not worry, saying, **‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’**” (Matthew 6:30-31)
 - a. We have little faith when we can’t even trust God for the basic necessities of life
 - b. If we can’t trust God even for the basics, how can we trust Him for anything else?
 - c. “**Therefore do not worry about tomorrow**, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:34)
 - i. Worrying about tomorrow hinders us from obeying God today
 - ii. If we don’t obey Him today, why should He even give us tomorrow?
10. Trusting Him means being sincerely content in any situation and with whatever happens
 - a. “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him” (Job 13:15 NKJV)
 - b. “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.” (Habakkuk 3:17-18)
 - c. “I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.” (Philippians 4:11)
 - d. Many times our prayers are answered once we’re content with them not being answered
11. The Old Testament gives many, many accounts of God’s faithfulness and trustworthiness
12. A few short testimonies about calling out to God and trusting Him
 - a. Times when God has been real to me in a relationship with Him
 - b. The testimony of the preacher when we camped at Land-Between-the-Lakes
13. Often people don’t come to Christ until they’re desperate and hopeless
 - a. My mom became a Christian once she was diagnosed with cancer and didn’t have long to live
 - b. We’re always just a moment away from financial ruin, serious health issues, and even death
 - c. Many times in the Old Testament, particularly in the period of the Judges, God allowed His people to become desperate and hopeless so that they would call upon Him and trust Him
 - d. If you’re not a Christian, you can call upon God anywhere—it doesn’t have to be here in church
 - e. Please don’t wait until you’re in a desperate situation to call upon Him, do it now while you can