

“I’m No Kin to a Monkey!”—Genesis 1:26-27

The text for this sermon, the theme of which is, “I’m No Kin to a Monkey!”, is Genesis 1:26-27 → *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* This is the text.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

Sovereign Lord, Who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them . . . (cf. Acts 1:24)

Blessed be Yahweh God of Israel, who made heaven and earth . . .
(cf. 2 Chronicles 2:12)

You are Yahweh, You alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them . . . (cf. Nehemiah 9:6)

Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.
(cf. Psalm 124:8)

These are quotes from the prayers of various individuals in the Old Testament, each beginning by recognizing Who created all things. While

the confession of God Who revealed Himself in the Old Testament Scriptures as the Creator of all things may be a “no brainer” for you it apparently isn’t for most people in our world, even many who claim to be Christians. The affects of Darwistic evolution and many other human theories of the origin of man abound in your life daily. They basically write Yahweh out of the picture of human life, thus dispensing with any kind of moral standard outside of self; providing only human analysis of our struggles and problems in the world; assuming that human beings are inherently good and can solve their problems with knowledge; reassuring you that someone else is responsible for your choices because of how they treated you; and breaking everything down to relativistic opinions about life and relationships.

While the world strives to analyze the creation to arrive at conclusions of origin and purpose in life from a supposed empirical study, God strives to have a relationship with you based upon His loving and gracious providence daily. Why? Because you were created by Him, unique from the rest of creation!

After placing His wonderful creation and creatures in place our text says in verse 27 that *God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* The account of creation as recorded in Genesis 1 was placed before us not only to tell us of our origin but also to reveal a special relationship with our

Creator. That which makes you unique from the rest of creation is your ability to bear *the image of God*.

What is this *image of God*? *The image of God* does not mean that we are some kind of physical “clones” of God. Since *God is spirit* (cf. John 4:24) and *does not have flesh and bones* (cf. Luke 24:39), it is a reference to being the only part of His physical creation which can reflect His righteous character and expand the blessings of His creation to others. It allows you to live in a right relationship with God, a right relationship with others and a right relationship with His creation. It is bound up in the word “righteousness.”

So . . . if we human beings are so uniquely created in God’s image why do our relationships on all levels of life feel and appear so wrong and broken? Your image of God was corrupted when your first parents, Adam and Eve, decided to disobey the LORD’s will and became sinful. It separated them from Yahweh evidence by their running from Him when He came to be with them (cf. Genesis 3:8). This corrupted *image* was reflected in separation from each other by being ashamed of their nakedness (cf. Genesis 3:7) and refusing to accept responsibility for their sin. (cf. Genesis 3:11-13).

Even with our corrupted image we are still God’s unique creatures who can use God’s creation with creativity. Just look at the amazing accomplishments of humans as they’ve learned, discovered, and utilized

the created order for magnificent blessings. However, sin turns their *dominion* into domination, using their uniqueness which God gave them for selfish and sinful desires. Even though we can continue to carry on His creating power in pro-creation, this too was corrupted by sin. Sadly, Genesis 5:3 says: *When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image.* This is the sinful, corrupted image you receive at conception.

The basic problem with sin is that it separates you from your Creator Whose will for you remains the same—He still wants you to live in a **perfect** relationship **with Him forever**. If we view the account of Genesis 1 **only** as a detailed explanation of the origin of the universe and all living things then we've missed the point. If our research or thinking begins with the created rather than the Creator to determine our origin it will affect how we deal with life and especially how we view issues of right and wrong. Everything becomes relative to your own standards, opinions and choices. What was once inconceivable become acceptable because it was debatable.

This will lead more importantly to a denial of our relationship with the LORD and bring forth a confused picture of life in all its aspects. In Isaiah 5:20, the prophet Isaiah talked about people *who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.* According to Isaiah 29:16 sin makes us

people who *turn things upside down*, even saying about God, “*He did not make me*” and “*He has no understanding.*” People may even think they are kin to a monkey—that they have a relationship with monkeys while denying the relationship with God. This picture is clearly portrayed in our lives everyday. While God yearns and longs for a perfect relationship with his unique creatures His Spirit is grieved to watch them sabotage the very relationship for which He created them. The image must first be restored for everything to be right again.

2 Timothy 2:13 says: *If we are faithless, God remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself.* Faithful to His covenant of love for us, our Father in heaven took on our human nature to live perfectly the Law which our first parents disobeyed. In the Person and Work of Jesus He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the punishment which our sins deserved. He rose from the dead to restore that perfect physical relationship with Himself eternally again! He has given you His Holy Spirit to bring you to repentance and faith in Jesus, to keep you in that faith through His means of grace and empower you to live that faith with **new** ideas, behaviors, perspective and attitudes formed by Your Creator, not you. The Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—were involved in giving us *the image of God—let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness.* (verse 26)—and in restoring our corrupted image to original righteousness.

Confessing the LORD as our Creator means that we recognize both His power over our lives and His re-creating plan for our lives through faith in Christ Jesus. *In Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them!* (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:19) In Christ *the image of God* is restored and through faith in Him you are declared righteous in God's sight so that you can live in a right relationship with Him, with others and with creation again!

When you confess the truth of your creation as recorded in Genesis with the words, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth" (1st Article of the Apostles' Creed), you are also confessing God's re-creating plan for your life in Jesus Christ. You confess that you are no kin to a monkey and that your "kinship" is to God in the perfect relationship you have with Him through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ! Amen.

By faith we understand that the universe

was created by the word of God,

so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

(Hebrews 11:3)

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