

LIVING IN HIS IMAGE

“SO GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, IN THE **IMAGE OF GOD** HE CREATED HIM; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM.”
GENESIS 1:27; NIV TRANSLATION

THE CREATION OF MAN WAS NOT AN AFTERTHOUGHT IN THE MIND OF GOD. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, THE PLAN AND DESIGN OF ALL CREATION INCLUDED **HUMAN-KIND** AS THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF HIS WORLD. GOD, WITH PURPOSE, CREATED MANKIND TO INHABIT HIS UNIVERSE, WHICH IS THE HOUSE WHERE GOD HIMSELF LIVES. WE ARE THE HIGHEST OF ALL GOD'S CREATION. IN FACT WE HAVE WITHIN US THE PRESENCE OF A LIVING SPIRIT WHICH SETS US APART FROM ALL OTHER CREATION. JAMES 2:26

GOD IS SPIRIT, AND NOT A MATERIAL BEING. WE MAY NOT LOOK LIKE GOD PHYSICALLY BUT WE DO BEAR THE **IMAGE** OF OUR CREATOR - IN AN INVISIBLE - SPIRITUAL **LIKENESS**. WE ARE VERY MUCH LIKE GOD IN THE ATTRIBUTES OF PERSONALITY, MIND, CREATIVITY, THE CAPACITY TO LOVE AND EXPRESS EMOTION, THE EXISTENCE OF WILL, CONSCIENCE, IMAGINATION, MEMORY AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND THE CAPACITY FOR WORSHIP.

CONSIDER THESE DEFINITIONS:

HUMANKIND MEANS - HUMANITY, MANKIND (MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITH MENTAL CAPACITY), HOMO SAPIENS AS A SPECIES - **DISTINCT FROM SPECIES OF THE ANIMAL KIND.**

IMAGE – THE WORD *IMAGE* IS USED IN THE BIBLE “LITERALLY” TO DESCRIBE A PHYSICAL OR MATERIAL REPRESENTATION OF HUMAN OR ANIMAL - KIND. IT ALSO DESCRIBES A **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MAN AND HIS CREATOR, GOD.**

IMAGE OF GOD – IS A PHRASE THAT EXPRESSES THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S CREATION OF HUMANKIND. MANKIND WAS **CREATED FOR A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND WITH THE POTENTIAL OF MANIFESTING THE CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD.**

LIKENESS MEANS - SIMILARITY; RESEMBLANCE; REPRESENTATION.

WHAT IMAGE DO YOU SEE IN THE MIRROR?

FATHER,

THANK YOU FOR CREATING MANKIND IN YOUR AWESOME IMAGE. HELP ME FATHER TO RECOGNIZE THE UNIQUE SPIRIT, OF YOUR CREATION, WITHIN ME. HELP ME TO NURTURE THE SPIRIT OF LIFE WITHIN ME - THROUGH DEEPER PRAYER AND MORE INTIMATE STUDY OF YOUR WORD. BRING TO PERFECTION THE IMAGE OF YOURSELF WITHIN ME, BEING - MY INDIVIDUAL AND UNIQUE PERSONALITY, MY MENTAL ABILITY, MY CREATIVE ABILITY, AND MY CAPACITY TO LOVE AND EXPRESS EMOTION. FATHER, MOLD THE EXISTENCE OF MY WILL INTO HARMONY WITH YOUR WILL. GUIDE MY CONSCIENCE AND INSPIRE MY IMAGINATION. SHAPE MY MEMORY AND GIVE COURAGE TO MY SENSE OF MORAL RESPONSIBILITY. DRAW THE FOCUS

OF MY THOUGHTS TO HIGHER THINGS, SO THAT MY DIVINE DESTINY WILL BE
FULFILLED AS I BECOME MORE LIKE YOUR SON JESUS AND MORE AND MORE IN
YOUR IMAGE. BRING ME TO MY KNEES IN EVERY MOMENT OF MY LIFE - THAT I MAY
WORSHIP YOU, IN ALL THINGS.

THROUGH JESUS, AMEN