

Man—the Unique Creation

The highest development, the maturity, of created life is man. Throughout all the centuries no life has surpassed the human life. Physically, man is weaker than some of the animals, but this weakness is far outweighed by man's superior consciousness, including his feelings and reasoning ability. Yet man is not just the highest life among creation; he is also the unique life. Regarding all the varieties of plant and animal life that God created, He said that each one was "according to their kind" (Gen. 1:11, 12, 21, 24, 25) or "according to its kind" (v. 21). But when He came to man, "God created man in His own image" (v. 27). This is the unique and very important point concerning man.

Vessels for Expression

Why was man created in the image of God? It was in order that man might have the ability to express God. No other part of creation has this capacity, because it was not created according to God's image. God's intention was that one day He, in the person of Christ, would enter into man and be expressed through man. Romans 9:21 and 23 reveal to us that man was made as a vessel, a container. In addition, 2 Corinthians 4:7 says, "We have this treasure in earthen vessels." Here we see a basic revelation of the Bible—man is an earthen vessel to contain Christ as the treasure.

Let us use the illustration of a glove. A glove is made in the image of the hand so that the hand might enter into the glove. Likewise, we human beings have an intellect,

emotion, and will which were created according to Christ, who is the image of God (2 Cor. 4:4). But without Christ these faculties lack true meaning. Christ Himself has the highest intellect, the real emotion, and the perfect will. The faculty of our intellect may be compared to the empty thumb of a glove—Christ's intellect may be compared to the real thumb of a human hand. The real thumb needs to get into the thumb of the glove; then the two will become one. One is the appearance, the expression, while the other is the reality, the content. Likewise our capacity of love, goodness, and patience must become the container and expression of the love, goodness, and patience of Christ.

Now we can see why God created man. We are here to contain and express Christ and to be one with Him. Whatever we are, whatever we have, and whatever we can do are like an empty glove, prepared to hold all that Christ is, all that Christ has, and all that Christ can do. Everything we are by nature is inadequate because we lack the divine element. Christ Himself must enter into every part of us. Exhortations for peace and love, though given with good intentions, are of no avail because *in ourselves* we lack the perfect love and the real peace. Our need today is to receive the Lord and to be filled with Him.

Being Filled with Christ

Practically, how can Christ enter into our being? Romans 9 tells us that we are vessels, and Romans 10 shows us the way to fill the vessel. Every vessel has a mouth, an opening. Our mouth was made to call on the name of the Lord Jesus so that we could be filled with Him. The

Bible says that He is “rich to all who call upon Him” (Rom. 10:12). Christ is inconceivably rich. And His riches are not just what He can do for us or give us; the highest riches are *all the aspects of His glorious being flowing into the corresponding parts of our being*. Moreover, because of His death and resurrection, Christ is now so available to be received by anyone who would desire Him. He only asks that you turn your heart to Him, open your mouth, and call upon His name in a sincere and definite way. **The living Christ will meet you and come into your being.** Then you will be a complete person, filled with Christ as your content.

Furthermore, once we have received this rich Christ, we should continue daily to call upon His name, purposefully opening our whole being to Him. Each fresh opening results in a fresh filling of the Spirit. How glorious is *the purpose of man!* As vessels, we receive and contain Christ so that He might be expressed through our entire being.

For fellowship in your local area, you may contact the person(s) listed below.

The Purpose of Man