

**Why did God create man in His Own image?**  
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**26** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, so that they will have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Genesis 1:26, LSB).

Why did God create man in His Own image? Let us read the first half of verse 26 **"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."** Moses, the author of Genesis, made it into account for the seventh time using the phrase **"then God said. . ."** this is to express God's supernatural power and sovereign plan from day one of creation to day six. God expressed His kind and gracious intention in creation with His divine word. On day six, God again thought of showing His intelligent design and work that only Him can do. We know and learn in day six account God created the animals (cattle, creeping things and the beasts of the earth). But this was just half of His creation plan. As we continue the second half of day six, for the first time, God spoke with an invitation, **"Let us make"** (Verse 26). An interesting phrase theologically and doctrinally while liberal theologians and critics would not accept the interpretation and exposition of a trinitarian concept. But as we look at the entirety of the Scriptures or what we call the whole council of God in Scriptures, God the Father is calling the Son of God Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit (A Triune God: One God in 3 persons) to come together in agreement to make man in their own image, according to their likeness. There is no other way to explain this phrase **"Let us make"** in a Triune God but to see it through the lens of the Scriptures of the entirety of the Old Testament and the New Testament.

From verses 1-25, we can read and learn that God created the heavens and the earth. Everything came into existence by His word. The six solar days and nights are literal numbers of days, so it is only six days. When God spoke on day six, it brings forth into existence and instantaneous all kinds of animals, domestic and wild animals and creeping things of the earth. But coming to the creation of man by the triune God, God said, **"Let us make man in our image"** this is to show that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit created man in their own image. What we know about God the Son is He was with God before the beginning of time, the Son of God was a self-existent God and the pre-existent God before He created the world by His own word. He was with God, and He was God (John 1:1-3). The Spirit of God was also in the creation. The Holy Spirit is also a self-existent God and pre-existent God where in verse 2 we read, the Spirit of God the Holy Spirit was hovering around the darkness and on the surface of the waters before the creation of the heavens and the earth. But of course, Moses had no idea or maybe limited understanding of a trinitarian concept of God in three persons. The coming of Christ and the promised Holy Spirit were mentioned in the Old Testament and gave us many implied allusions and instances in the Scriptures and prophesies by faithful prophets. But the physical accounts and disclosures of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ as the Son of God (Colossians 1:16-17) and the Holy Spirit as God (Job 33:4) are mostly accounted for in the New Testament. The best interpretation of "Let us make" is God is one in 3 persons.

What makes man unique to the rest of God's creation? **"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."** Man was created in the image of God, according to His likeness. The Psalmist said, "We are fearfully and wonderfully made by God (Psalm 139:4)." It is by divine sovereign will and His kind intention that man (male and female) was created and carved fearfully and wonderfully like refined chiselled, formed and cut according to God's image and likeness. It is divine and supernatural work of an intelligent designer with the purpose of man having an eternal relationship with God. Man is self-conscious which means he has the ability to love and receive love. Man has emotions (feelings), intellect (mind) and will (free). Man can pursue a deep and growing relationship and fellowship with God and other people. Man has the ability to communicate with God in our own language to worship and serve God, help, care and give to God. Man is an intelligent being with limitations and imperfections who can create and invent things like God. But not supernatural. Only God can do the impossible and

supernatural. Man has a longing to know God and to have God. Blaise Pascal said, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ." Man has the nature and character of God to be faithful, righteous, truthful, just, compassionate and kind. Man desires to live long, reproduce, know the truth, and enjoy life with his family and God. Man is gifted by God with DNA like all plants and animals, but man was created in the image of God so he is different, unique and special being. Man can create spectacular concerto, beautiful clothes and grand buildings. But other creations of God cannot.

Scientists and evolutionists said man evolved by a random chance. Genesis 1:26-27 refuted the idea of chance and random selection. Secular scientists and doctors cannot even make a machine to create man with unique DNA codes, genes, chromosomes, and other complex things in man. Most of what they think, say and write about the evolution of man is a lie and nonsense apart from claiming Genesis 1-11. It is all theoretical and philosophical, abstract and uncertain. They don't believe in absolute truth, and every truth they know about man is relative. But many people are attracted to what they say and write despite the lie. The word of God is truthful and worthy of our trust. It is Him alone the intelligent designer and Creator is worthy of our trust. Therefore, the creation of man is a supernatural divine work of God. It is a complex creation of God. Only God alone can do it. Animals are created beings but not in the image of God, and they are not significant in the sense that they have no soul or spirit that can live for eternity. Only man created in the image of God, according to His likeness. God designed man to live with God in heaven for eternity.

Man is not God. We have many imperfections, and our minds are finite and limited. We are not gods like what many extreme charismatic preachers interpret Christians are small gods. This kind of teaching is erroneous and heretical, a lack of understanding of God and His words and a disrespect to the sovereignty of God. Man was just a created being and cannot be like God with supernatural abilities. We have no divinity like God and cannot perform supernatural power. To teach and to claim we are small gods make us a false teacher and influencing churches to become weak and false churches.

Man was commanded by God for a purpose. To dominate, to rule and to be a steward of God's creation and resources. God is saying the purpose of man is not only to enjoy God but also to rule and dominate here on earth according to God's design. But the fall of man distorted everything. In my next article, we will discuss the fall of man and the effects of the fall. The second half of verse 26 says, **"that they will have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."** To have dominion means to rule or dominate, to be stewards of God's perfect creation. Man is a higher being than the animals. Man's intelligence, emotion, and abilities are way better than animals. Man can rule and have dominion over God's creation according to God's design and purpose.

As I conclude this article, let us ask the beginning question, why did God create man in His Own image? Man is called by God for a purpose. One of the purposes of God is God has chosen His own people before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless (Ephesians 1:4-6). He already foreknew those whom He saved and those who will live for eternity with Him. God knew people would fall into sin. He knew who would believe in the sacrificial atonement of Christ and who will remain faithful till the end. God also knew those who would reject the works of Christ and His Deity and who would go to hell. Man was chosen by the Father before the foundation of the world, brought man to Jesus and gave him eternal life. Man has the Holy Spirit so man can persevere in the faith and be faithful as an image bearer of God until the return of Christ. John 6:37 says, "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out." We are blessed to be created in the image of God but more blessed because we are chosen, called, predestined by God before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in Christ.