The Image of God

Yahweh, our Creator, desired that we know Him so He created humanity "in His Image". First He created Adam, who we now know had both male and female DNA. All men do! Then He "extracted" the woman from Adam so we could see a man and a woman separately with all their distinct characteristics. He looked at them and said, "This is My image." To further clarify, He commanded that they marry and be fruitful and multiply, thus completing the family—the perfect image of the Creator Himself. We learn that God is a Divine Family, the Father, Spirit and Son, and so His expressed image needed to be represented by all the distinct parts of a family. Thus, the human family, a father as the husband, a mother as the wife, and the child as the fruit of their love.

When you contemplate the existential crisis of our day, you can simplify it with two opposing viewpoints. One stance says men and women are distinct and definitive, marriage is a holy union between them, and that children are the blessed fruit of that union. The other stance says gender is a social construct and there has never been a distinction between a man and a woman, nor is gender limited to male or female. A person is born as one gender, both genders, or neither. Marriage is unnecessary, or if desired, may take place between any genders or no genders at all. And of course, the unborn child is the fruit of nothing, is not even human or alive, and has no rights to live, other than what the person carrying that lump of cells permits.

Think about it! One side believes in the family, as God presents it to us, as His image. The other has rejected all aspects of the family, and by inference has rejected the image of God Himself. In other words, there is no God! Could opposing positions be any more contrary to one another?

The destruction of the family is the enemy's chief strategy and the restoration of the family to the image of our Creator is the most important work on earth today. When we do that, only then will the Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, 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. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; **have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."" Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV

"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. **Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman,** and He brought her to the man." Genesis 2:21-22 NKJV

"And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." **Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh**. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." Genesis 2:23-25 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened." Romans 1:20-21 NKJV ""Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."" Malachi 4:4-6 NKJV

"For the earnest expectation of the **creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God**. For the **creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the **creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage** of corruption **into the glorious liberty of the children of God**." Romans 8:19-21 NKJV

This is where our journey together will take us today: THE IMAGE OF GOD?

- 1. We will see that the human family on earth is the expressed image of the Divine family in Heaven—the image of God
- 2. We will notice how Adam was created as an "Us" just as God calls Himself an "Us". (Within Adam was the DNA of Creation)
- 3. We will contemplate the existential crisis of our day, and simplify it into two opposing viewpoints. One that says "there is a God" and one that says "there is no God!"

4. And we uncover that it is the destruction of the family which is the enemy's chief strategy—and how the restoration coming to the earth will be paralleled by the restoration of the family to the image of our Creator. It is the most important work on planet today.

Summary: THE IMAGE

1. The human family reflects the image of God

- A. <u>The Family</u>
 - (1) The Family Structure
 - (a) The image and likeness of God: "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, 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. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."" Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV
 - 1. Within the Creator was an "Us"

- 2. Adam was created in God's image, so within Adam was an "Us".
- 3. God called Adam a "them" because he had the DNA of both a male and a female.
- 4. All of creation was contained inside of Adam (as it is with God Himself).
- 5. God shows us Adam's female DNA even before he separates the "woman-only DNA" from him (women only have female DNA).
- 6. God blessed Adam and told him to be fruitful and multiply BEFORE Eve (woman's DNA) was extracted from him!
- 7. This reveals that within Adam was a Man, Woman and Child, the expressed image of the Creator.
- 8. Adam is ONE as Yahweh is ONE
- 9. However, God desired for us to better know the inner workings of His character. He knew ... *"It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."* (Genesis 2:18 NKJV) —so he did this...
- (2) The Process (a peek into the mind of God)
 - (a) "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and

closed up the flesh in its place. **Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman,** and He brought her to the man." Genesis 2:21-22 NKJV

- 1. First Yahweh breathes life into Adam
- Then Yahweh tells us that Adam would not be fully understood if you could not recognize what was inside of him—"It is not good for man to be alone..."
- In other words—you could not possibly recognize the inner workings of the powerful creative force inside of Adam unless God showed it to you—
- 4. So, Yahweh extracted the female DNA from Adam and showed us what that looks like in human form, all the attributes of the female part of Adam—
- 5. FACT: Even though the female DNA was extracted from Adam to form Eve, Adam still possesses Female DNA. (and this is still true about every male today)!
- 6. Women have only female DNA and if Adam maintained only male DNA, when they were "fruitful" there would never be a female child unless Adam could only contribute female DNA.
- 7. Question: How can the parts of Man remain ONE as God is ONE, even after God separates them for us to see their individual features, while at the same time

each part remains recognizable as a distinct piece of the original whole? "...and He brought her to the man..."

- (3) The Answer is...Marriage
 - (a) "And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." Genesis 2:23-25 NKJV
 - Eve was taken and created from Adam's DNA, separated out, or in other words "set-apart" from Adam. But, in the most glorious way, through marriage, the two are still able to operate as ONE. Can you now understand why God, who is ONE, can also be viewed as three separate "characters"? That is why He created the most holy of concepts in the Universe, Marriage and the Family, all so we can understand and know Him!
 - 2. What deep prophetic message was Jesus revealing when He referred to marriage and family?

- 3. "...Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female [Genesis 1:27],' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? [Genesis 2:24] So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."" Matthew 19:4-6 NKJV
 - a) "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 NKJV
 - b) "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24 NKJV
 - c) Do not overlook this MOST CRITICAL piece! "For this reason..." What reason? Because God's image expressed in Adam was both male and female, and for us to fully understand that, He extracted the female to show us her distinct characteristics. And to remind us that in no way does this extraction diminish the ONENESS of God, He gives us marriage which "recombines" the male and female

as ONE! And Jesus ADDS clarity—This is of God and it CANNOT be separated!

- d) To understand the true magnitude of Marriage, and the fruit of marriage, in a world that diminishes Holy Matrimony to a temporary contract and business arrangement, and reduces childbearing to a "personal choice" to carry or eliminate a blob of cells, you must recognize this: Marriage is the image of God! Let that settle in for a bit. "For this reason", because God wants to express Himself, so you can know Him and His nature, He gives us marriage and the fruit of marriage—the Family!
- (b) "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." Matthew 19:6 NKJV
 - 1. The Bond of Marriage is the Image of God and it cannot be broken! Paul's words in Romans 8!
 - a) "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" Romans 8:35 NKJV
 - b) "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth,

nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39 NKJV

- c) Can you recognize the type of covenant Paul is referring to in Romans 8. When he says nothing can separate us from Christ's love he is alluding to the type of relationship we have with Y'shua. It's a marital covenant— "what God has joined together, let not man separate."
- B. <u>Character Traits of Family Members (Divine & Human—It's</u> why God separated them out—we we can recognize them!)
 - (1) **Characteristics of a Fathers**: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* Genesis 1:1 NKJV
 - (a) Husband—Love—The Origin—The Destination—
 Authority—Legacy—Strength—All Knowledge—
 Provision—Protection—Instruction—Judge—Justice
 - (2) Characteristics of the Spirit and Mothers: "And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."" Genesis 2:18 NKJV
 - (a) Wife—Helper ("she and her" and not "he and him")—
 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another
 Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the

Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you and will be in you**." John 14:16-17 NKJV

- (b) Power—Guidance—Influence—Conviction— Companionship—Testimony—Submission
- (c) Discernment (the Spirit in Action): "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered." I Peter 3:7 NKJV
 - 1. Let me translate: "The wife is so sensitive to the Holy Spirit, that it is critical you understand her because if you don't, it would be the same as missing what God is saying to you." And we all know that we are commanded to pray "*only for the will of God", so if you are praying without that Holy Spirit discernment, then your prayers will be hindered. Make sense now?
 - *"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." I John 5:14 NKJV

- (3) Characteristics of a Sons and Children: "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply..." Genesis 1:28 NKJV
 - (a) Fruit—Meekness—Obedience—Humility
 - 1. Does nothing on his own—
 - 2. Does not seek his own glory-
 - 3. Does not speak on His own authority—
 - (b) A Servant—A Sacrifice —The Word

Summary: THE PERVERSION

- 2. The destruction of the human family is meant to deny God's existence!
 - A. The Existential Crisis of Our Day
 - (1) When you contemplate the existential crisis of our day, you can simplify it with two opposing viewpoints. One stance says men and women are distinct and definitive, marriage is a holy union between them, and that children are the blessed fruit of that union. The other stance says gender is a social construct and there has never been a distinction between a man and a woman, nor is gender limited to male or female. A person is born as one gender, both genders, or neither. Marriage is unnecessary, or if desired, may take place between any genders or no

genders at all. And of course, the unborn child is the fruit of nothing, is not even human or alive, and has no rights to live, other than what the person carrying that lump of cells permits.

- B. <u>The Downward Spiral!</u>
 - (1) Warning
 - (a) Disobey and you will die—
 - (2) The Deceiver
 - (a) Has God indeed said—
 - (b) It all starts with deception and the devil is the father of it. Pay attention to everything going on around you in the world—if deception is afoot, Satan behind it!
 - 1. He is a liar and the father of it— John 8:44
 - 2. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy— John 10:10
 - (3) The Curse (The Enemy, Man and Earth)
 - (a) The serpent is cursed—
 - (b) Cursed is the ground and cursed are you
 - (4) Cut Off
 - (a) Banned from the tree of life and now a animal must die to cover your sin—
- C. <u>Gender-fluid—the Curse manifesting</u>

- (5) Male and Female Confusion: *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened."
 Romans 1:20-21 NKJV
 - (a) You want to suppress the truth of who God is and His ways even though Creation itself testifies to it...it will not turn out well for you if your heart becomes darkened—
- (6) Vile Passions
 - (a) You will wind up worshipping creation itself and your normal heterosexual desires will be twisted into homosexual desires—
- (7) The Debased Mind
 - (a) Once you are given over to a debased mind, every type of sin will have a grip on you—
 - 1. Think about it—We could certainly look at so many lies, but at the origin of them all was the eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now we live in a world with twisted knowledge—the root of all

the twisted thinking going all the way back to the garden when God created mankind in His image. Today the greatest assault of all is the dismantling of that image—gender is fluid—marriage is irrelevant the life of children is optional!

- 2. Now take a look at Paul's words with new insight and you should instantly recognize his reference..."His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead."
- 3. Invisible attributes? Yes...that Adam was a them (male and female!) and was told to be fruitful and multiply. And the extraction of Eve was to show those invisible attributes—the female and childbearing (the family). The destruction of that image is the denial of the image of God—the most egregious denial of all.
- 4. ***His invisible attributes of the Divine Family (a Father, Spirit and Son) were made manifest in the Human family (Father, Mother, and Child). And the denial of the human family is a dial of the Creator Himself.
- D. <u>The New Marriage</u>
 - (1) Forbidding Marriage

- (a) Times will come when marriage is no longer viewed as beneficial or necessary— I Timothy 4:1-5
- (b) Your role as a minister of truth is the instruct against such heresies— I Timothy 4:6-7
- E. Fruit: Appreciation Depreciation
 - (1) The blessing of fruit is no longer easy!
 - (a) In pain you shall bring forth children— Genesis 3:16
 - (2) Child Sacrifice
 - (a) Don't even consider sacrificing your fruit— Leviticus18:21
 - (3) An utter abomination!
 - (a) Sacrificing your children on the altar of a false God— Jeremiah 32:32-35
 - (4) Abortion—the Modern Altar of Molech
 - (a) 55- 60 million abortions have been performed in the United States since 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision made the procedure legal.
 - (b) In the USA, where nearly half of pregnancies are unintended and four in 10 of these are terminated by abortion, there are over 3,000 abortions per day.
 Twenty-two percent of all pregnancies in the USA (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion.

- (c) According to WHO, every year in the world there are an estimated 40-50 million abortions. This corresponds to approximately 125,000 abortions per day.
- (d) Abortion Statistics counter

Summary: THE RESTORATION

- 3. The most important work on earth today is to restore God's image.
 - A. <u>It starts with you!</u>
 - (1) Identify as a Family—first you must know who you are!(Ephesians 5 and 6–notice the family!)
 - (a) Wives, submit to your own husbands...Husbands, love your wives, ...For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Ephesians 5:22-32
 - (b) **Children**, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother— Ephesians 6:1-4
 - Ephesians 5 and 6 teaches family. It draws our attention back to Genesis to recognize it is the image of God he's referring to here.

- 2. Paul is using the creation of man to connect us with Christ in marriage— *"For we are members of His* body, of His flesh and of His bones. **"For this reason** a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.""
- 3. Paul is reminding us that Christ, the son of God, can make us sons when we become one with Him in marriage! *"I speak concerning Christ and the church."*
- B. The Assignment
 - (1) What we are all waiting for; even creation is waiting!
 - (a) Step One: They path to glory: "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God," Romans 8:15-16 NKJV
 - 1. We have access to the Holy Spirit which is free to replace our human spirit, if we allow it. And just like we just saw in Ephesians 5, we can become one with Christ in marriage and, as it says in Romans 8:12-17, joint heirs and glorified together!
 - a) I must pause for a moment and refer to Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 2 (read all 16 verses).

There, he teaches us that once we have Christ, we now have access to the Spirit of God, where before that we only had access to the spirit of a man. What Paul is saying here in Romans is that, even though you could choose to, you do not have to back to that old spirit. *"You did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear..."*

- (b) The Revealing—the Restoration Coming—Notice Creation
 - 1. The revealing of sons and glorious liberty— "For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." Romans 8:19-21 NKJV
 - a) Notice is says revealing of sons (which is coming), not the right to be sons (which every Christian already has). When the revealing happens, the restoration begins—creation will be delivered from the bondage of corruption.

- b) For this study we will focus on the corruption that is present in the world regarding the destruction of the image of God, the family!
- (2) The Prophecy
 - (a) Malachi
 - 1. These are the events leading up to the end—

""Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."" Malachi 4:4-6 NKJV

a) I want you to see two things here in Malachi's words. First notice the restoration of the family as the key indicator of Elijah's effectiveness. Then notice what happens as long as that restoration is thwarted. The earth will remain in the curse! What curse? The curse that Paul later refers to as the bondage of corruption of creation that will only be released when the sons of God are revealed and creation is freed into their glorious liberty. b) Yes—the whole of creation is waiting for the restoration of what was corrupted back in Genesis, the family as the image of God! And isn't that precisely what I've been saying is the chief problem in the earth today, the denial of family and thereby the very denial of God's existence.

(b) Confirmation that Elijah comes first and what his job is!

- 1. "And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist." Matthew 17:10-13 NKJV
- 2. Elijah comes first to restore all things and John the Baptist was a picture of that before the first coming of Christ, and Elijah must come first again—THIS WILL CORRESPOND WITH THE REVEALING OF OF THE SONS OF GOD!
- (c) Prophecy about John the Baptist

- John the Baptist has the call as prophesied in Malachi

 —"And he will turn many of the children of Israel to
 the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in
 the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of
 the fathers to the children... Luke 1:16-17
- C. From Glory to Glory
 - (1) Transformed from glory to glory
 - (a) When the sons of God are revealed we will see His image when we look in a mirror— II Corinthians 3:14-18
 - (2) ONE
 - (a) The end of the Upper Room Discourse like you've never seen before! John 17:17-26
 - 1. At the very end of His longest discourse in the entire Bible, Y'shua prays... Keep in mind Genesis— "Let Us make man in Our image..." Y'shua and the Father are One. We understand how that works now when we look back at the divine family dynamics. And Y'shua prays that we would be One with the Father just like He is One! Yes, that would be the perfect manifestation of God's image on the earth. Then and only then will the world believe who Christ is and how the whole divine family operates. And that is

why it is critical that we, as His image-bearers on earth, get our families in order!

- (3) One + One + One + One + One + One + One = One
 - (a) one body—one Spirit—one hope—one Lord—one faith
 —one baptism—one God and Father of all... Ephesians
 4:4-6

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- 1. We saw that the human family on earth is the expressed image of the Divine family in Heaven—the image of God
- We noticed how Adam was created as an "Us" just as God calls Himself an "Us". (Within Adam was the DNA of Creation)
- 3. We contemplated the existential crisis of our day, and simplified it into two opposing viewpoints. One that says "there is a God" and one that says "there is no God!"
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You can refer to the long version of this teachings here: <u>The Image</u> <u>of God</u>

Synopsis: THE IMAGE OF GOD

Premise: the human family on earth is the expressed image of the Divine family in Heaven—the image of God

Theme: Yahweh, our Creator, desired that we know Him so He created humanity "in His Image". First He created Adam, who we now know had both male and female DNA. All men do! Then He "extracted" the woman from Adam so we could see a man and a woman separately with all their distinct characteristics. He looked at them and said, "This is My image." To further clarify, He commanded that they marry and be fruitful and multiply, thus completing the family—the perfect image of the Creator Himself. We learn that God is a Divine Family, the Father, Spirit and Son, and so His expressed image needed to be represented by all the distinct parts of a family. Thus, the human family, a father as the husband, a mother as the wife, and the child as the fruit of their love.

The Fall: When you contemplate the existential crisis of our day, you can simplify it with two opposing viewpoints. One stance says men and women are distinct and definitive, marriage is a holy

union between them, and that children are the blessed fruit of that union. The other stance says gender is a social construct and there has never been a distinction between a man and a woman, nor is gender limited to male or female. A person is born as one gender, both genders, or neither. Marriage is unnecessary, or if desired, may take place between any genders or no genders at all. And of course, the unborn child is the fruit of nothing, is not even human or alive, and has no rights to live, other than what the person carrying that lump of cells permits.

Think about it! One side believes in the family, as God presents it to us, as His image. The other has rejected all aspects of the family, and by inference has rejected the image of God Himself. In other words, there is no God! Could opposing positions be any more contrary to one another?

The Restoration: All of creation is waiting in eager expectation for the restoration. This happens when the sons of God are revealed. And that is the single greatest priority of the day. Jesus Himself said Elijah would come to restore all things and when Malachi prophesied about what that Elijah restoration entailed, he was sure to point to the family! It would be a restoration of the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers. The destruction of the family is the enemy's chief strategy and the restoration of the family to the image of our Creator is the most important work on earth today. When we do that, only then will the Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.