



KINGDOM EMBASSY MINISTRIES

Remembering our Roots. Restoring Authority. Maturing Disciples. Advancing the Kingdom.

Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 1:18-32
- Genesis 1:26-28; 2:21-25
- I Corinthians 6:18-20
- I Thessalonians 4:3-7

Title:

IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

- God's Visible Attributes
- The Gateway Sin
- A Cascade of Sins
- Purity and an Orderly Life

SEED:

"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; ...**" 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

FRUIT:

"For **the wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because **what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.** 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**," Romans 1:18-20 NKJV

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Set-apart from all other creation, God uniquely created mankind to truly know Him. For that to happen, He created us "in His Image." First He created Adam, who had within him, both male and female DNA. All men do! And even before Adam had a companion in the garden, God called Adam "them" and said, "This is My image," and told him/them to multiply and fill the earth. For that to be possible, hidden within Adam, this visible male, was both a woman and child. Even while he was standing alone in the garden, they were inside him already, just not visible. But, they could not remain invisible if mankind was meant to know God, to understand what it means to be created in God's image. His invisible attributes had to become clear for everyone to see He is the only real God. After that, no one could offer ignorance as an excuse.

So, God took some female DNA from Adam and fashioned a woman. In a very real sense He “extracted” the woman from the man to make her visible. Now we could see the man and the woman separately with all their distinct characteristics. “This is His image.” And He commanded that they marry and be fruitful and multiply, thus completing the family—the perfect image of the Creator Himself. God is a Divine Family, the Father, Spirit and Son, thus His expressed image needed to be represented by all the same separate and distinct family members. As such, the human family was created in God’s image, the man—a husband and father; the woman—a wife and mother; and the children as the fruit of their marriage. Do you see it: Father, Spirit and Son?

When you contemplate the existential crisis of our day, you can simplify it into two opposing beliefs. One position believes men and women are distinct and definitive, marriage is a holy union between them, and children are the blessed fruit of that union. The other position believes any or all of the following: gender is not determined by genetics; it 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, or even the idea that you must pick only one. 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. It is not even human or alive, and has no rights to live, other than what the person carrying that clump of tissue permits. By the way, the person incubating that amorphous cluster of cells can be a woman or a man or neither, just to clarify.

One side believes in the family, as God presents it to us, as His visible image. The other has rejected any or all aspects of the family, and by inference has rejected the image of God Himself. In other words, there is no God! Could opposing beliefs be any more contrary? The destruction of the family is the enemy’s chief strategy and thus the restoration of the family to the image of our Creator is the most important work on earth today. The wrath of God is coming against all who oppose this reality.

GOD’S VISIBLE ATTRIBUTES

1. God’s image is clearly recognizable in the earth!

A. God is manifest in them...

(1) God’s Wrath on Unrighteousness

(a) Ungodly and unrighteous men have denied something obvious.

1. “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, because **what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.**” Romans 1:18-19
NKJV

B. The Creation Gospel

(1) The invisible made visible

(a) No Excuse!

1. "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**," Romans 1:20 NKJV
- (b) Since Adam's fall in the garden, creation has been in a steady decline. But in a prophetic stroke of genius, in chapter 8, Paul tells us what the restoration of creation will look like and what to look for next.
 1. "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**. For we know that the whole **creation** groans and labors with birth pangs together until now." Romans 8:19-22 NKJV
- (c) First: God's Invisible Attributes... *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes..."*
 1. "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
- (2) **The invisible becomes visible!**
 - (a) The **Woman** was made visible...
 1. "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**." ; NKJV
 - (b) The Answer is...**Marriage**
 1. "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
 - (c) **Children** complete the family...
 1. "Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she **conceived and bore Cain**, and said, **"I have acquired a man from the Lord**."'" Genesis 4:1 NKJV
- (3) What was Jesus' teaching about the importance of His Father's Image as expressed in gender and marriage?

(a) What deep prophetic message was Jesus revealing when He referred to marriage and family?

1. 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
2. "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
3. "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
4. "Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father;** so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that **I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?** The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but **the Father who dwells in Me** does the works. Believe Me **that I am in the Father and the Father in Me,** or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves." John 14:9-11 NKJV
5. "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you **another Helper, that He [She] may abide with you forever—** the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, **because it neither sees Him [Her] nor knows Him [Her];** but you know Him, for **He [She] dwells with you and will be in you.**" John 14:16-17 NKJV
6. ""But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father,** He will testify of Me." John 15:26 NKJV
7. ""I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; **that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us,** that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one,** and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." John 17:20-23 NKJV

(b) "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." Matthew 19:6 NKJV

1. "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
2. "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) Now let's go back to the Garden and revisit creation with a whole new perspective!

1. "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

C. Suppression of the Creation Gospel

- (1) If unveiling the once invisible qualities—the female, and child—is the way God reveals His image to us...
 - (a) What would be the best strategy to DESTROY that image? (Back to Romans 1:18-19)
 1. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness, because **what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them** [He brought her to the man (Genesis 2:22), showed Eve to Adam;]." Romans 1:18-19 NKJV
- (2) Ways to suppress the truth in unrighteousness...
 - (a) Forbid Marriage
 1. "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, **giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry**, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth." I Timothy 4:1-3 NKJV
 - (b) Your role as a minister of truth is to instruct against such heresies!
 1. "If **you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister** of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. But **reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.**" I Timothy 4:6-7 NKJV
 - (c) What is the root of these atrocities? Know God, but deny Him anyway!
 1. "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 1:21 NKJV
 - (d) Change God into AN IMAGE of your own making.
 1. "Professing to be wise, they became fools, and **changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man**—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things." Romans 1:22-23 NKJV
 - (e) To dishonor the natural use of the body
 1. "**Therefore** God also gave them up **to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies** among themselves, who **exchanged the truth of God for the lie**, and **worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen." Romans 1:24-25 NKJV

THE GATEWAY SIN

2. The Root Manifestation

A. Sexual Immorality

(1) Gender confusion

(a) For this reason...

1. **"For this reason** God gave them up to **vile passions**. For even their **women exchanged the natural** use for what is **against nature**. Likewise also the **men, leaving the natural** use of the woman, **burned in their lust for one another, men with men** committing what is **shameful**, and **receiving** in themselves the **penalty** of their error which was due."

Romans 1:26-27 NKJV

A CASCADE OF SINS

3. Forgetting God

A. From the gateway sin to every type of vile behavior!

(1) God showed it; they knew it!

(a) "what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. {21}...

although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God..." Rom. 1:19, 21

1. "And even as they **did not like to retain God in their knowledge**, God **gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;**" Romans 1:28 NKJV

(2) That unrighteousness leads to this cascade...

(a) The first on the list of corrupt behaviors is gender confusion!

1. "God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.**" Genesis 1:27

2. **"For this reason** God gave them up to **vile passions**. ...**women exchanged the natural** use for what is **against nature**. ... **men, leaving the natural** use of the woman, **burned in their lust for one another, men with men** ..." Romans 1:26-27 NKJV

(b) After **sexual immorality**, the gateway sin, all else follows!

1. "being filled with all unrighteousness, **sexual immorality**, *wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;*" Romans 1:29-31 NKJV

B. And if that is not bad enough...

(1) Don't just practice it, promote it!

(a) The righteous judgment of God is coming!

1. “who, **knowing the righteous judgment of God**, that those who **practice such things are deserving of death**, not only do the same **but also approve of those who practice them.**” Romans 1:32 NKJV
2. “For **the wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all **ungodliness** and **unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**” Romans 1:18 NKJV

PURITY AND AN ORDERLY LIFE

4. Command: abstain from sexual immorality

A. See: [Purity and an Orderly Life](#)

(1) Sexual Purity

(a) God’s will is your sanctification!

1. “For **this is the will of God**, your **sanctification**: that you should **abstain from sexual immorality**; that **each of you should know how to possess his own vessel** in sanctification and honor, **not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;**” 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 NKJV

(2) This is what your sanctification process looks like.

(a) Separate from the things in the world...

1. “**Do not love the world or the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.** And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” 1 John 2:15-17 NKJV

(b) Separate from the wisdom of the world...

1. “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. **For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.** For it is written, “**He catches the wise in their own craftiness**”; and again, “**The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.**”” 1 Corinthians 3:18-20 NKJV

(3) Abstain from sexual immorality!

(a) Here Paul echoes James’ ruling from the Jerusalem Council, the one Paul was charged with bringing to the Gentiles.

1. “Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to **abstain** from things polluted by idols, **from sexual immorality**, from things strangled, and from blood.” Acts 15:19-20 NKJV

2. "Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, **to send chosen men** of their own company to Antioch with **Paul** and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. They wrote this letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren **who are of the Gentiles** in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings." Acts 15:22-23 NKJV

B. Paul wrote letters to other cities he visited on his second missionary journey...

- (1) To Corinth, Philippi and Ephesus...

- (a) **To Corinth:** he wrote, "Your body (your vessel) is the Temple of the Holy Spirit."

1. ***"Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."*** I Corinthians 6:18-20 NKJV

2. And we know Paul's sentiments on sexual immorality: ***"It is actually reported that there is among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife!"*** I Corinthians 5:1 NKJV (See I Corinthians 5:1-12)

- (b) **To Philippi:** he wrote, "You can do it! You can master yourself, no matter how difficult it seems."

1. ***"I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*** Philippians 4:12-13 NKJV

- (c) **To Ephesus:** he wrote, "Stop acting like a Gentile. Stop giving yourself over to lewdness, uncleanness and deceitful lusts. Start acting like the new person you were created to be in the Lord!"

1. ***"This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."*** Ephesians 4:17-24 NKJV

- (2) Don't listen to the frauds!

- (a) What does it mean...

1. "that no one should **take advantage** of and **defraud** his brother in this matter, because **the Lord is the avenger of all such**, as we also **forewarned** you and **testified**." I Thessalonians 4:6 NKJV
 2. *...deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*" Romans 1:32 NKJV
- (b) Practice Holiness!
1. "For **God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness**." I Thessalonians 4:7 NKJV
- (c) It that simple!
1. "Therefore **he who rejects this does not reject man, but God**, who has also given us His Holy Spirit." I Thessalonians 4:8 NKJV
- (d) To be continued...
1. "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
 2. "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 4:5-6 NKJV