

Session 3 Adam: The Human Spirit Designed for Intimacy with God

Please refer to the teaching notes for this message.

INTRODUCTION

Genesis 1. Part 3. Here I'm continuing the "Studies of the Bride of Christ" in our Bible school class. We're looking at what God reveals about Adam in Genesis 1 and how the human spirit was designed by God. The point is that God designed the human spirit for intimacy with God Himself. We find, even as early as Genesis 1, God's declaration and commitment to have intimacy with the human race.

GOD'S PURPOSE: A WEDDING FOR HIS SON

Paragraph A. One of God's ultimate purposes for creation was to provide a Bride for His Son as an eternal companion who would reign with Him forever. Revelation 19:7 gives us the end of the story. This is the blueprint that God was using from the beginning. Before Genesis 1, God already knew Revelation 19. He knew there would be a wedding ceremony at the end of natural history. Even before He began the work of creation, the blueprint was clear: He was planning a wedding. Jesus even said this in Matthew 22:2. Speaking of His Father, He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son" (Mt. 22:2). Here Jesus gave insight into the kingdom: it's the Father arranging a wedding for the Son. This gives us insight into what happened back in Genesis 1–2. The guiding principle throughout history is that God was raising up a prepared Bride for a worthy Son. That's the story line of history—that's the blueprint, so to speak—that God has been operating from as He has led human history.

TWO GENESIS ACCOUNTS

Paragraph B. Genesis gives us two different accounts of the creation story. Genesis 1 is the account that focuses on Adam and what happened in Adam's spirit. He was made in the image and the likeness of God. Genesis 2 is a different creation account. You compare the two, together, to get the whole story, but they're two completely separate points of view, two different aspects of the same story line of God's creation of man.

GOD DESIGNED US TO INTERACT WITH HIM

Number one, the Genesis 1 account gives us a prophetic picture of the Bride. The reason it's a picture of the Bride is because here God is revealing that He designed the human spirit with capacities to interact with God. The very fact that He designed the human spirit with a likeness to God is because He wanted man—humans—to relate to God in an intimate way. It was a statement of God's commitment to the great wedding ceremony—the great wedding reality—at the end of natural history. In creating the human spirit with an ability to engage in intimacy with God, God was making a commitment to have a continuing, deep partnership with His people, and to allow His people to enter into the government of the universe with His Son. He had already committed the leadership of the universe to His Son, but He wanted to raise up a people who would connect with His Son, who would have a capacity for intimacy with God, and who would share government with His Son, as His eternal companion, forever.

THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

Roman numeral II. The centerpiece of God's purpose. In order to understand the Genesis 1 story line, you have to take a step back and get the big picture of what's happening. This is a point I make in various courses because it's foundational to understanding the scope of what God is doing. In Ephesians 1:9–10, Paul tells us that God made known to him the mystery, or the hidden plan, of His will. The hidden plan of God's will is that God would gather together into unity all things in Christ: everything in the heavenly realm as well as everything

in the earthly realm. God's eternal purpose from before Genesis 1 is that He was going to join the heavenly realm and the earthly realm together. That was in God's mind before Genesis 1: to bring together on the earth a natural realm and a heavenly realm. This was the context in which Jesus would receive His eternal companion, His Bride, and they would rule and dwell together in paradise where the heavenly realm and the earthly realm would be joined.

Paragraph A. The centerpiece of God's eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back and establish His kingdom over the earth as He joins the heavenly realm and the earthly realm together. When I talk about the heavenly realm, I'm referring to the heavenly, supernatural dimension where God's manifest presence is released and enjoyed, and where some people can experience it. God also created the earthly, physical realm so that we could have human processes, emotions, and physical sensations, and experience the things we do in the physical. God's purpose was always to bring these two realms together on the earth. That's what Genesis 1 gives us: a foreshadowing of God's bigger picture.

GOD SHALL DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE

Paragraph C. God's purpose was always to have people live together with Him on the earth with the supernatural realm and the natural realm brought together. There would be physical, material, human bodies with emotions, physical sensation, a physical reality, and all the supernatural dimension of the Holy Spirit, all together on the earth. It was always God's purpose for that to happen. In Revelation 21:3, John declares the testimony that "the tabernacle of God is with men," and He will dwell together with them. It's a famous verse in which we see that the tabernacle of God is finally among men. John was describing the time when the throne of God would be, literally, on this physical earth.

DWELLING IN THE MIDST OF THE SUPERNATURAL

Revelation 21:3 is talking about a time in the future when the throne of God rests on this physical earth in full manifestation of the supernatural realm while people have physical, material bodies. They would be living on a physical, material earth with all the supernatural properties of the heavenly realm, joined together, on the earth. That's what God had always planned to do. Some folks think of going to heaven. That's a partially accurate reality and it's real to some degree, but it's limited. From the resurrection of Jesus until the second coming, we do go to heaven when we die. Our disembodied spirit goes to heaven until the time of the second coming. But that's not God's ultimate purpose. It's only a holding pattern, so to speak. When a believer dies and goes to be with the Lord, he doesn't have a physical, material body; he's a disembodied spirit, he's in heaven, and he's enjoying the presence of God. But that's not the fullness of God's purpose; it's only part of what God has ordained for us. It's not the fullness of what God wants. The fullness of what God wants is for heaven to come down to earth: for God to put His throne on the earth and to have the supernatural realm of the heavenly paradise on the earth, but joined with the physical, material properties of earth's natural realm as well.

It's exciting! If you like food, you'll enjoy physical, material food forever in your physical, material, resurrected body. This is true! When you interact with a friend or a family member, when you hug them, it's not like you'll hug them and pass through them like a spirit. It's won't be like that. You and they will both possess a material, physical body like this one on the earth. That's where our future is. We only go to heaven as a temporary holding pattern until the second coming. Then heaven comes down to earth. Then, the paradise of God that was initially established in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2—which was only a down payment, an initiating of God's purpose—will come into the fullness of what God planned. Paradise, in a garden, on the earth, connecting with God, is going to happen again. That was always God's purpose.

WE WILL EXPERIENCE THE FULLNESS

Top of page two. Paragraph D. God determined that we would experience the fullness—that’s the key word, the word *fullness*—of His personality and His purpose. There’s something God wants to give us, and the biblical word for it is *fullness*. I have several passages here in the New Testament where Paul or one of the apostles refer to the fullness of God, the full purpose of God, where we will experience the full personality of God. For God’s full purpose to occur, this natural, earthly realm must come together with the supernatural, spiritual, heavenly realm. That’s the context necessary for fullness to take place. Again, the saints in heaven now are not yet in fullness. Yes, they’re in the presence of God, and that’s dynamic, but there’s an element of God’s plan that’s not happening in heaven because the natural realm isn’t there. The natural realm is a significant part of God’s big picture. What will happen is that God will bring together the fullness of His entire purpose at the time of the second coming when we who are in the heavenly realm come to the earth. That garden paradise reality that we find established in Genesis 1—that’s where our future is. To get insight into where it’s going in the future, we look at where it began in Genesis 1–2.

JESUS WAS THE FIRST TO EXPERIENCE FULLNESS

Paragraph E. Jesus is the first person to experience the fullness of God’s purpose for humanity. Though Jesus is fully God, He’s also fully Man. He’s the first human to be fully in the natural, fully in the Spirit, and fully in the presence of God. That speaks of the fullness of God’s purpose for the human race. He was the first Man to experience that, and He is a down payment on where all of us are going who are believers in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1 tells us that God planned for all fullness to dwell in Jesus (Col. 1:19). Yes, that means the fullness of deity, but it’s not all that Paul is saying. Jesus was the first Person to experience all the fullness of God’s purpose for the human race. He had the full dimension of God and the full dimension of humanity with the full dimension of the supernatural and the full dimension of the natural—and experienced them all as one Person. That’s where you are going; that’s what your future is. It’s exciting!

THE DOWN PAYMENT FOR THE FULLNESS OF MAN

Paragraph F. In Genesis 1–2, we see the down payment of God’s plan for that fullness. That’s why I took a few minutes to explain the big picture. You can’t really understand the implications of Genesis 1–2 if you don’t know where we’re going toward paradise on the earth. In Genesis 1 and 2 we have a token of what’s going to happen in the future. We see a down payment of it in past. You’ll notice the natural and spiritual realms coming together in Adam. “The Lord God formed man”—which is Adam—“of the dust of the ground” (Gen. 2:7). We’re made of the dust; we’re made of the natural realm. That’s good. We’ll have a natural, physical dimension of our humanity forever and forever and forever. When Adam was made of the dust within a natural dimension, that wasn’t bad. It wasn’t sinful; it wasn’t less than God’s purpose. It was God’s high purpose. Notice what else Adam had: He wasn’t only formed of the dust, but the supernatural, the Holy Spirit, was breathed into him. Before he fell into sin, he had both dimensions operating in his human experience. He was a down payment of what we will experience in fullness at the time of the resurrection.

THE ANGELS BEHELD THE DRAMA

Roman numeral III. In the Genesis 1 storyline there was a great drama that unfolded. The angels who were watching this great drama were not detached observers; they were deeply engaged as they watched what happened in Genesis 1. In fact, in Job we read that the angels sang together, “And all the sons of God shouted for joy” (Job 38:7). This is referring to the time of creation, the time of Genesis 1–2 when God created the heavens and the earth. The angels are called the “morning stars” and “sons of God” in this context. That’s what

they were called before Adam was created. They were so enthusiastic during creation as event by event unfolded; they watched with total enthusiasm, with complete involvement. They were awestruck, undoubtedly, as God first created the light, then the earth and the land, and the sea and all these dimensions. They were all new to the angelic realm. In the midst of every event, they would sing praise to God. They would sing together; they would magnify Jesus as Creator. They would worship and honor how brilliant and how powerful He was in creating the heavens and the earth. They all sang and shouted, “Yes! Awesome! Glory! Worthy!” Every single angel was involved. Gabriel was praising; Michael was shouting; they were all singing as event by event took place. Each event was new. There had never been grass. When God made the grass, they thought, “What’s grass?” When He made the cows, they had never seen a cow. Everything was new to them as they were watching. The angels are pictured as anointed observers of God’s creation plan.

GOD’S PLAN: PROVIDING A COMPANION FOR HIS SON

Paragraph B. We learn that God had a plan hidden in His heart, even from Genesis 1. We know what that plan was: to provide His Son an eternal companion, and to end natural history with a great wedding. That celebration would begin the age to come with His Son being equally yoked in love to a new race of beings. These had never been created before Genesis 1. God had the blueprint clearly in His mind before He created the heavens and the earth. The angels were watching the whole process. Event by event, they were awestruck. They were undoubtedly perplexed; they were probably a bit mystified as to what was happening, event by event.

THE MYSTERY HAS BEEN HIDDEN IN GOD

Paul tells us in Ephesians 3 of “the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the Church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places” (Eph. 3:9–10). Paul says a whole lot in this very short passage. He says God had a plan; it’s called “the mystery of God.” In the New Testament, when it talks about the mystery of God, you could write instead, “the secret plan of God.” God had a plan, and this plan, paragraph B, was from ages past. This plan was from before Genesis 1. God’s plan was clear; He saw the end from the beginning. He saw the wedding celebration before Genesis 1. As a matter of fact, He created Genesis 1 with a wedding celebration in view. He had hidden the plan in His heart (v. 9). He didn’t tell the angels what He was doing; He didn’t tell anyone. God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit, the three in one, the only One—and He is in total unity as three distinct Persons—exists as one God. This plan was hidden in His heart and no angel, no devil knew what was happening. God hid the plan in His heart.

MYSTERY MADE KNOWN TO THE HEAVENLY POWERS

What was the plan? The plan is to create a human race that would voluntarily choose to love His Son, who would be the eternal companion of His Son, and who would voluntarily choose this relationship with the Lord. God wouldn’t force them—He wouldn’t force their decision—but He would give them their own free will in the process.

This manifold wisdom, this plan of God, would be made known by the Church (Eph. 3:10). It would be made known through the Church to the principalities and powers. The angelic and demonic realms were looking at the Church to figure out what the secret plan was. Both angels and demons were saying, “What is God doing? He won’t tell us. He has a plan hidden in His heart. No one knows where this is going.”

God told the powers and principalities, “You look at the Church if you want to see what My plan is. I will reveal it, little by little, through the redeemed who say yes to Me.” The angelic and demonic realms have been

looking at the Word and watching the redeemed to figure out what the secret plan is. Well, we know the big picture: There's going to be a wedding at the end of natural history. That's the plan. That's the guiding principle by which God has been leading human history.

“IT IS THE GLORY OF GOD TO HIDE A MATTER”

1 Peter 1:12 tells us that the angels desire to look into the gospel. In other words, the angels are studying what's happening in the preaching of the gospel. They're trying to figure it out, because they don't fully understand where it's going either. That's an amazing reality: that not only the demons, but also the angels themselves, don't know the hidden plan, yet God unfolds it little by little. Of course they know the Word and they're students of redemptive history; they're watching the purpose of God unfold in the lives of the redeemed. They're putting the pieces together, little by little, throughout history. I find it interesting that the angels are looking into God's purpose in salvation: studying it, trying to figure it out, just like we are, because no one fully knows where it's going. God is a God of mystery; He loves to hold back the plan and unveil it little by little—not to surprise, but to fascinate—and cause the hearts of His people to be awestruck as it unfolds, precept upon precept, line upon line.

LIFE: THE ORIGINAL AND ITS COUNTERPART

Roman numeral IV. Genesis 1. We look at the plan. There's a pattern of creation that's established in Genesis 1. It's important to understand this. Paragraph A. Ten times in Genesis 1, God created an original, and then created a counterpart to come into unity with that original to generate life. In verse 21, He created the creatures of the sea and every living thing that moves. He would create the creatures of the sea, and then create another according to their kind. He created the birds, and then created another bird according to its kind. Then He created the living creatures of the land according to their kind (Gen. 1:24). He created the cattle and beasts, and then created others according to that kind. He would make an original—the bird, for example—and then He would create its counterpart. Then, they would come together and there would be a flow of life. Ten times in a row, as you read in Genesis 1, God established this principle. He creates an original, and next He creates either a seed or a counterpart that comes into union with the original; then life would flow out of that union. Ten different times in a row He did this in Genesis 1: the original and then the seed, or the counterpart, which is nearly the same. Out of that would come forth the generation of life.

The angels are watching this and they don't understand exactly what's happening. They have never seen a bird, they have never seen a cow, and they have never seen grass. They have never seen any of these natural things. It was all brand new. They were singing and shouting and saying, “Yes God, You're brilliant! You're powerful!” They began to understand what was happening because when the original was created, a short while later the counterpart was created, according to its kind. Then the angels could see clearly what was going to happen.

Paragraph B. This happened for the first five days of creation. Then, a dynamic change and a great surprise took place.

“LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR OWN IMAGE”

Top of page three. Paragraph A. God makes an announcement. Ten times in a row He creates an original, and then He creates the seed, or the counterpart, to the original. They come together in union. This is the pattern that was clearly established. The angels think they have it down. They say, “We understand what's happening now.” But, on the sixth day, God completely breaks the pattern. He doesn't create an original and then a counterpart, but does something seemingly backwards. He creates the counterpart. He creates Adam. As the angels look on,

He creates the counterpart that will be in union with the original. “Who is the original? Who is the original?” They’re looking at Adam and saying, “Ten times in a row, there’s an original and then a counterpart.” This one time the counterpart is made first instead.

God declares, “He has been made according to Us, to the Godhead” (Gen. 1:26, paraphrased).

This must have been absolutely shocking to the angels. For them, to see a bird and then a counterpart, the beasts of the field and then their counterparts, the fish in the sea and then their counterparts, they could conclude, “OK, we’ve got it!” But then, there’s this new thing called a human being. There has never been a human being. They don’t know what a human being is. He’s radical! He’s made, not in the likeness of another counterpart, but of God. I can imagine the angels being absolutely awestruck, saying to one another, “This can’t be possible! We didn’t really hear what He said rightly, did we? It sounded like He said, “Made according to Our image’ (Gen. 1:26, paraphrased).” That means these humans will come into union with God like those other ten creations with theirs, and life will flow out of that union. That’s impossible! God is uncreated; God can’t have a counterpart and a union with a created being. That’s not possible!”

Then God makes the ultimate statement: “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion... over all the earth” (Gen. 1:26). And not only does God say that, but Adam is created with the capacity to relate to God. Adam was built with a design, not only to relate to another human being, but also to relate to God Himself. The angels didn’t have this capacity. Adam had an ability in his design that was unique in creation. No other type of being had this capacity. In this very act, God was declaring that He was preparing a wedding for His Son. He had prepared and was orchestrating a plan to bring forth an eternal companion for His Son, a companion who would voluntarily choose to love Him.

“LET THEM HAVE DOMINION”

Then God makes another statement in Genesis 1:26. “Not only are they in our likeness”—as radical as that is—“but secondly, they’re going to have dominion over this new planet” (paraphrased). Again, I imagine the angels were awestruck. “How could they have dominion over the planet? Jesus has dominion over the planet; how could they have dominion over the planet?”

I’m just making this up as the analogy, but I imagine the angels were thinking, “We think we heard these two things wrong. Made in the likeness of God? To be in union with God like those other ten creations? Those originals and their counterparts were made so they could have union and generate life together. Are you kidding? This new creature, man, is made to have union with God—forever?” That means, then, that the dominion—the government of the entire earth—would be given to this new, created being. Only God has dominion over the earth!” This must have absolutely surprised the angels.

THE DESIGN OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT STATES GOD’S DESIRE

Paragraph B. The very design of the human spirit is a statement of God’s desire for intimate partnership with human beings. The very fact that He made our human spirit like Him is a statement that He wants relationship with humans in a manner that He doesn’t have with any of the rest of the His created order. The very fact that He made Adam’s human spirit in the likeness of God was the first hint that there would be a wedding at the end of natural history. The angels didn’t know there was going to be a wedding, but the Father did. The very manner in which He created Adam was the Father’s declaration that a wedding was coming. No one really understood it, though, because the Father hid that in His heart.

FASHIONED TO INTERACT WITH GOD’S INNER LIFE

Paragraph E. I can imagine the angels were asking the question, “What is God doing?” No one knew what a human was. How could this new race be like God? It was a giant step in God’s creation. He went from plants to fish to birds to animals. Every one of them had an original and a counterpart. Then He took a giant step past the angels. The angels were the most glorious creatures in all of creation. All these other acts of creation were lower than angels. Then God took this big, gigantic step past the angels. He created humans who could relate to God. This undoubtedly perplexed the angels. They must have asked the question, “Why are these beings so exalted? Why are they so noble? Why are they like God?”

There must have been a holy hush in heaven as they were contemplating the implications of where this union was going. God’s purpose was to have a class of human beings who would live in union with God, who would release His life and His power to the created order in a garden paradise where the heavenly and the earthly realm were brought together, on the earth, forever. I don’t know if they could put all that together, but that’s what God was doing. The angels must have been overwhelmed when it dawned on them—and I don’t know when that happened—that this created being would actually be married to God. They might not have ever understood that until they heard it declared in the Scripture itself.

This is awesome, and this is terrifying in its majesty and glory: that created beings would be made with such a capacity, with such an ability that they could interact with God’s inner life. Their inner man could connect with the inner life of the Godhead. They would not only see His power, but they would touch His heart, they would know His mind, they would know His secrets, and they would share His heart. They would be loved by Him and they would feel and return His love. These are things the angels could never, ever experience. The inner life of this creature, of this new created being, this human race, would be able to interact with the inner life of the Godhead, not just witness His power outwardly, as the angels did.

MADE IN THE LIKENESS

Roman numeral VI. I have written here, “Created in God’s likeness.” What does that mean? We have a human spirit. We have the unique capacity to receive the life of God into our human spirit. Angels can’t receive the life of God into their spirits. The most precious thing that you have is a human spirit. You can’t buy one; it’s given to you as an absolutely free gift. It’s the most precious thing that exists in the created order, because the human spirit is made in the likeness and the image of God. It was made to connect in a deeply with God. Every single human being has one. This is an awesome gift.

NO ONE CAN EVER TAKE YOUR ETERNAL, HUMAN SPIRIT

Only by understanding what the human spirit really is do we see our dignity, our destiny, our greatness, and who we really are. We are the most unique creatures to be able to receive and feel the love of God, and we can return the love of God in a way that moves Him. Only the human spirit has the ability to do that. No matter who comes against you, or how terrible things are in your life; no one can ever change the fact that you have an eternal, human spirit made for connection with God. No matter how terrible the next five years, ten years, or twenty years are in your life; for billions of years, you were made with a capacity to connect with God in a deep and powerful way.

WE POSSESS REASON, CREATIVITY, AND EMOTION, AS GOD DOES

Not only do we have a human spirit, we have a soul as well. We have personality traits and abilities, just as God does. God has a soul; we have a soul. We can relate to God. We’re built like God in this way as well. We can

relate to God in the way angels can't. We have a mind: we have a capacity for reason and revelation and creative thinking so that we can connect with God. We can receive revelation from God. We can be creatively used under the inspiration of the Spirit in our thinking, not only in this age, but also even in the age to come. We have emotions—a capacity for intense affection, a capacity for joy, a capacity for the zeal of God, and even a capacity for His holy anger. We have capacity for all of these things—forever—and again, in a way that angels don't have. Angels have emotions, but not the range of emotions that God put into Adam in Genesis 1. The very fact that God put that into Adam was God's declaration that this was a race of beings being prepared to be the eternal companion of His Son. Only the Father knew where creation was going; only God knew the ultimate purpose for the creation of the human race, and only the Father knew the hidden plan of His heart—a great wedding at the end of natural history. The human race would end, the redeemed of the human race, as eternal companions to Jesus dwelling in a garden paradise. The natural and spiritual realm will be together, and the presence of God will dwell forever on the earth—God and man, dwelling together, governing together—forever and forever.

MAKE CHOICES THAT GOD REWARDS FOREVER

The human race was given free will. In that free will, we have the capacity for dignified action. We can make choices. Most of our choices in life are little choices. Probably, ninety-nine percent of all the choices we make are little ones. Only a few are big choices in our whole life, but those little choices have eternal consequences. We can make little choices that move God. We can make choices that God remembers and that He writes in His book. We can make choices that God rewards forever.

We can also make big choices that move God. Beloved, that's an amazing ability: that we are created in the image of God, that we have a mind with a capacity to understand His mind, that we have emotions that can feel His heart and love, and that we can receive it and return it back to Him. We have a will that whatever we do so moves God that He records it, remembers it, and can reward it forever. He doesn't do that for any other part of the created order. Only one class of being that was created in His likeness and His image in Genesis 1, designed with the ability to interact with God Himself—the human race—has that privilege.

Of course, we also have a body. The Scriptures tell us that our body, our resurrected body, will be in the same glory, in the same likeness, as Jesus' resurrected body. That's remarkable. Paul says in Philippians 3 that Jesus "will transform our lowly body" so that it will "be conformed to His glorious body" on that Day, and that our body will be like His (Phil. 3:21).

GOD DESIGNED US TO INTERACT WITH JESUS

Top of page four. Not only do we have a spirit, soul, and body unique to the created order, but the very fact that those dimensions were created in God's likeness: We are created in God's likeness in body, soul, and spirit, so that we can receive the likeness of God and we can relate to Jesus forever, body, soul, and spirit—not just spirit, but all three capacities, body, soul, and spirit. God created us with that because He already knew we would be the eternal companion, the human race that would say yes to His grace and be the eternal companion to Jesus forever. We will live in that paradise forever. God already had the blueprint clear from the beginning; He knew where the end was going. He designed and developed us to interact with Jesus forever.

THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE

Beloved, there's nothing more glorious than the human spirit. A human being! Just think of the very value of human life. In society people talk about the "value of life," but most only speak of it in the secular arena—the

value of human life in the context of our seventy years on the earth. That's valuable, but our true value is in the fact that we're made with a unique capacity to interact with Jesus in intimacy—forever and forever and forever—as His eternal companion. That's the real value of our human spirit.

Again, no matter who does what against you, or what negative thing happens, or how hard things get; no one can ever take away from you your possession of a human spirit, created and designed to interact deeply with the inner life of the Godhead. Your inner life and Their inner life—is a most remarkable reality. Again, the very fact that God established this in Genesis 1 was a declaration that no one could understand at the time. It was His declaration that He was preparing a people for His Son, a people who would become His eternal companion.

WE WILL SHARE HIS HONOR, WEALTH, AND AUTHORITY

Paragraph D. Dominion. God not only gave us a body, soul, and spirit. He also called this newly created human being into the place of partnership with Jesus forever, in Jesus' authority forever, and to share part of His destiny forever. We would share His honor, we would share His authority, and we would share His wealth. His Bride, the human spirit, was created in such a way as to be able to participate in the sharing of Jesus' government forever and forever and forever. That's the glory of what you have as a human being. It says in Genesis 1 that God called Adam to have dominion over every living thing, everything on the earth.

Then, there are the passages where God gave dominion to us. He wasn't just looking for a workforce. He had angels to perform His work. God was looking for a partnership with His Son forever. Again, He was looking for people who were designed and created to be able to share the destiny with Jesus forever and forever in the government of the human race.

NONE COMPREHEND THE GLORY THAT AWAITS US

Paragraph E, at the end. "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9). God prepared all these things. Back in Genesis 1, the Father was shouting, "This is the companion of My Son! This is the eternal companion! Look at the design of their spirit! Look at the way I made their soul! Look at their body! It will be compatible for My Son. It will have the same type of glory. I prepared this one to share dominion and leadership, to share the very destiny of My Son, and to interact with the inner life of the Trinity. This is what I have done in Genesis 1. I have made them in My likeness and I have made them in My image."

Amen. We'll just end with that. Let's go ahead and stand.

MINISTRY TIME

That's who we are: We're created in the image of God. The human spirit is designed for intimacy with God. I gave you a lot of verses we didn't go through, but they're for your own personal study.

Let's come before the Lord. The enemy has been lying to some of you. The enemy is telling you it's too hard and that it's not worth it. Beloved, if you have a human spirit made in the image of God, which every human being has, it doesn't matter what the enemy throws our way. I don't like the enemy's work and I want to say 'no' to it. It is worth it. It's worth obeying Jesus. Our destiny is so glorious and so awesome and so sure. Nothing can stop it. As we're coming before the Lord, I want to ask the Him to touch our hearts so that we sign back up and line back up with the dignity and destiny of who we are.

Father, here we are. We come before You, Lord, and we say yes to You again. We say it is worth it. We say the devil is a liar. It is worth it. Our human spirit is awesome. We thank You.

I want to lead some of you in a prayer. I want you to close your eyes for a moment so that you're not distracted by the folks around you. The Lord put on my heart that some of you have trouble with the fact that God even created you. You're angry sometimes that He even created you. I've heard this phrase in my mind: "Why did You even create me?!"

The Lord says, "Don't say that. You don't understand who you are."

Or you say, "Look at me, God. I'm worth nothing."

These two phrases that have come to my mind: "God, why did You create me?" and, "Look at me, I'm worth nothing." The Lord says, "That's an absolute lie. I created you in My image to connect with Me deeply, and with My son forever." You have an amazing, unique capacity compared to the whole created order. The Lord wants to break the power of that lie off of you. Maybe it's the simple lie of believing it's not worth it, or pressing into God is too hard. If you've had that lie in your heart, even though you love Jesus, if the enemy is bombarding you with that lie or one of those three statements, I want to pray for you tonight. I want you to come forward if you would like prayer. Statement number one is, "Why did You even make me? I'm not even happy You made me." You don't really mean it, but you've said those kinds of phrases. The Lord has kindness and tenderness and wants to free you from that lie. Or, "Look at me, I'm worthless. I have no future; I'm worthless. I'm not worth anything to anyone." Or, if you've said, "It's just not worth pressing in anymore." If any one of those three phrases has bombarded your mind, I would like you to come stand on one of these lines.

These are lies from the enemy. I'm not saying you believe them, but they bombard your spirit. The reason they bombard your spirit is not because you're weak or bad. Everyone is weak; everyone is broken. The reason they bombard your spirit is because demons want to cut you out of your inheritance. That's why. It's not because your mind is weak compared to someone else's. Everyone's mind is weak. The enemy is speaking directly to you because of who you are to God. It's actually, in a strange way, a compliment from hell against you; it really is. The Devil is coming and saying this to cut you out of your inheritance because you threaten his kingdom. He can't get you to buy into some things and so he says you're worth nothing. Beloved, you were made in the image and the likeness of God as the eternal companion of Jesus forever. That's the most remarkable reality that you have.

Lord, even now, I ask You to come and release Your spirit.