

Who Are You?



Who are you? Most people would answer that question with their name, some might tell you of their occupation. But while your name and occupation may tell me a lot about what you like to do and how to address you they don't fully answer the question, "who are you" or should I say, "what are you?". The nature of mankind may not seem to be something that is of great concern to you, after all, you are human and can't change that, but a misunderstanding of this topic has led to many unfortunate problems. Prejudice, atheism (evolution), fear of ghosts, and many people hopelessly going through life not knowing where they're going or what their point is, all these stem from not knowing "who you are". So let's see what our creator says about us.

I Am Constructed In God's Image

Genesis 1:26, 27—The first mention of mankind in the Bible tells us that we were created in God's image. Now, I've heard some people try to reason around that fact by saying that we are created in His spiritual image not His physical image because God is a spirit and therefore has no body. It is true that we are created in the spiritual image of God—we have the power of choice and a natural desire for Him—but to say that God is only some non-bodily spirit and that we are not really in the actual *image* of God contradicts this and other passages of the Bible.

The Bible reveals that God has a physical body:

Feet & Hands (Exodus 24:9-11) Face & Back (Exodus 33:20-23)
Eyes & Ears (Peter 3:12) Clothing, Hair, Throne (Daniel 7:9)

I Am Created for a Purpose

Genesis 1:28—In a lot of ways you could say that God set mankind here to be His representative here on earth. We were given the responsibility of taking care of God's newest creation.

Genesis 2:18—God created us relational beings. He intended for us to marry and raise families. He made us relational beings because He wanted to have us as His friends. Throughout the Bible we see God longing for a relationship with us.

Genesis 3:8—It was not until after Adam and Eve had sinned that the relationship with God was broken.

I Am Complete As A Unified Being

Genesis 2:15-17—Satan has tried to convince people that we are a conglomerate being, i.e., that we have an immortal soul (or spirit) that is independent from our body and will live on whether we accept God or not. This is in direct contradiction to what God said, "when you eat of [the tree of knowledge of good and evil] you will surely die". The wages of sin is death not eternal life (Romans 6:23)

Genesis 2:7—The Bible reveals that we don't *have* a soul we *are* a soul. The formula is simple: Dust + Breath of Life = Living Soul (being)

Ecclesiastes 12:7—At death that formula is reversed the dust returns to the ground (through decay) and the breath of life (spirit) returns to God. Until the resurrection, our soul has ceased to be. Therefore we are dependent on God for our very existence since we are an indivisible union of body and God's breath of life.

I Am Capable of Choosing Whom I'll Serve

Deuteronomy 30:19—The fact that God gave our first parents a test of obedience (the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil) shows that we have been given free choice. Moses laid out the consequences of obedience and disobedience and reiterated the importance to choose life.

I Am Corrupted by Sin

Genesis 5:1-3—Adam was created in God's image, He was corrupted through disobedience and we are created in Adam's image.

1 Corinthians 15:22—Because we are all descendants of Adam we all have a corrupted, fallen, nature that brings death. But although Adam blew it for us Jesus came to reverse the curse.

I am Called a New Creation In Jesus

Ephesians 4:22-24—Although we have all been corrupted by sin, through Jesus, we can be recreated the way God originally intended—in the image of God. While we are still on earth we will struggle with sin but He has given us the victory.

Thought Questions:

1. If I'm constructed in God's image how well am I representing Him.
2. Since I'm a complete unified being, how should that affect how I treat my body?
3. Have I become a new creation?
4. How have I seen God restoring me into the kind of person He originally intended for me to be?