**God Created Man and Woman (20 June 2021)**

Scripture:

Genesis 1:20-2:25

Isaiah 45:5

Lesson Aims:

* To understand that God created man and woman as unique beings, gave them a unique task, and established a unique relationship with them

What we have learnt for the past two weeks:

1. Bible is the word of God, God-breathed and it points to Christ
2. From the Bible we know how all things came about. God created everything out of nothing. God created the universe and everything in it

And today we will learn that God created man in special ways and for special goals.

**I. God created man in special ways**

Why is it so special?

1. God created man as the crown of creation

* God made human last after all creatures were made. God prepared everything for man to rule over them. Can you imagine if God made man first?
* At the end of each day’s work (except the second day) God saw that “it was good”. After God created man, He then saw everything that He had made, and behold, "it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). This is because God had completed all His works and now man was made, who was the chief of all creation.
* When creating other creatures God only said out His words: “Let there be light, and there was light.”, “Let there be animals, and there were animals”. But when God created man, God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed His spirit.

1. God created man so valuable and honorable

* Psalm 8 – Psalmist wondered on the work of God in creating man, a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor
* Genesis 9:6

*“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.”*

1. God created man in His image

* God created us in his image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27). No other creatures were made this way
* It means we are like him. We are the image bearers of God. We are the reflectors of God. A mirror as an illustration.
* It does not mean in reverse that God is like us. Example: we can say someone resembles his father, but we cannot say in reverse that the father resembles the child.
* We are created in God's image does not mean God has eyes, ears, mouth. God is spirit (John 4:24) and we cannot describe Him in human bodily image.

In what sense that we are like God then?

1. Man was created after the **knowledge** of God

Colossians 3:10 – *“and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator”*

1. Man was created after God’s **righteousness**
2. Man was created after God’s **holiness**

Ephesians 4:24 – *“and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”*

**II. God created man for special goals**

As the image bearers of God, we have special goals that God has set for us:

1. To be fruitful and increase in number
2. To rule the earth, to have dominion over it, to govern all of creation
3. To enjoy a wonderful relationship with God
4. To reflect God’s glory

But there is a problem:

1. After human being fell into **SIN**, the image of God was spoiled.
2. Our ability to mirror God’s characters has been greatly affected, just as a broken mirror (we can still see the reflection from the mirror but the reflected image is broken due to the broken mirror)
3. We can no longer enjoy a wonderful relationship with God.

In fact, human beings continue to rebel against God and his words. For instance:

1. People rejected the word of God that says God only created male and female. Instead, more and more people defined their new genders (more than 50 genders as of now).
2. People rejected/denied the word of God that commanded human beings to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over it. Instead, many cases of earth’s exploitation and people live in individuality (avoid marriage to pursue career, life enjoyment, etc.)

Praise be to God that he has given us a way (and the only way):

1. The restoration of the fullness of the image of God in human beings is **accomplished by Christ**
2. We will not understand what it means to be made in the image of God **unless we know Christ**, who is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15-20)
3. We must ask for God’s forgiveness for our sins and **believe in Jesus Christ** as our Lord and Savior

Summary:

1. God created us in special ways
2. God created us for special goals
3. Due to sin, the image of God was spoiled, and man cannot enjoy a wonderful relationship with God anymore
4. The restoration of the fullness of the image of God in human beings is accomplished by Christ

Discussion Questions:

1. Please share one or two learning points from today’s lesson.
2. As an image bearer of God, what does it mean to glorify God in your life? Have you glorified Him?
3. We will not truly understand what it means to be made in the image of God unless we know Christ. Have you known and believed in Christ?
4. How would you respond to current world issues that against the word of God (e.g., LGBT, individuality) in light of the lessons you have learnt from Week 1 to this week?

**Memory Verse:**

Genesis 1:27 – So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.