

Christian Doctrine Mankind (Part 3) Who Are We?

Made in the Image of God

Mankind came into existence as a part of God's creation. But the creation of man was uniquely different from all other creation. Mankind was the only being created in the image of God and according to His likeness (Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6). Being in God's image means that we have qualities that reflect our Creator, for instance:

- We have intellect. We can think about things logically.
- We have a will that gives us the ability to make decisions.
- We have morality. We understand right from wrong, and are thus accountable to God for our actions.
- We have a spiritual nature. We have more than just a physical body, we are spiritual beings.
- We have creativity and emotions.
- We are able to have meaningful relationships.

Body, Soul and Spirit

Three main terms are used in Scripture to describe who we are as individuals:

- Body: The physical part of a person (I Thess. 5:23).
- Soul: This can refer to a person as a whole (Acts 2:41) or just an inner part of a person (Matt. 10:28). The focus is on the fact that we are living beings and that we continue to exist even after physical death.
- Spirit: The inner spiritual part of a person (II Cor. 7:1).

The Treasure of God's Creation

It is awesome to think that when God was creating the Universe, He determined to create mankind to be a reflection of Himself. And when the creation was complete, God was very pleased with His creation of mankind (Gen. 1:31). The unique qualities we have as human beings set us apart from the rest of God's creation, and it is these qualities that make us God's treasure. One of the most humbling, and yet most amazing facts about life is the basic realization of who we are as God's treasured creation!

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