

## Keys to Fulfillment: Creation - Created in God's Image

### Introduction

- A. If we are to find fulfillment in our daily walk we must first of all learn what kind of a person we are. This is why we must turn to the account of creation.
  - B. The Biblical concept of creation is important. We were created by God - not by an evolutionary force. We were created for a purpose, we are important to God, and our daily life can have value and meaning.
- I. The Biblical Statement: Mankind was created in the image of God, Genesis 1:26,27; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10.
- A. We were created as a person with all the rights, honors and privileges that accompany personality.
  - B. We were created with the character and abilities related to righteousness, holiness and knowledge.
- II. The Biblical Explanation:
- A. God created us as persons. This sets the pattern for how God regards me and how I am to regard myself. I have the privilege to know, to be heard, to feel, to have an opinion, to develop my potentiality, to assume responsibility, to do meaningful tasks and to enjoy life. I may not treat myself as a thing, or as unimportant, or as irresponsible. God holds me responsible as a person. It is God's will that I be fulfilled as a person. Isaiah 43:1-21
  - B. God created us as spiritual persons. We were created so we could know God and walk in fellowship with Him, understand spiritual truths and perform spiritual functions. We are sacred people. We may not treat ourselves as though our basic function and fulfillment is the sensual or the physical. I Cor. 2:15
  - C. God created us as rational persons. We have the ability to know truth, draw conclusions, develop principles, integrate areas of life and thought under a single perspective and interpret life correctly through the perspective of divine revelation. He holds us responsible for what we should know. Isaiah 55
  - D. God created us as emotional persons. We have the ability to know and express such feelings as love, hate, fear, courage, joy, grief, etc. In themselves such feelings are good and may all be used to glorify God. God made us to feel deeply about things both good and bad. Matthew 22:34-40
  - E. God created us as volitional persons. One of our greatest abilities is that of choice. It is important that the Christian recognize this ability and choose to obey God in decisions of faith, love and hope. The ability to choose must not be confused with the feelings of inability. We do not need emotional assurance to make a correct decision of faith. Romans 6:11-13
  - F. God created us as moral persons. We are taught that God has written His laws on our hearts. We have a consciousness of right and wrong. Romans 2:14,15

G. God created us to be His representatives. We were given dominion over the earth and told to dress and keep it (Gen. 2:15). We have the ability to glorify God by causing the world to develop its potentiality. In this world we are called to be God's prophets, priests and kings. Exodus 19:5,6;  
I Peter 2:9

H. God created us to glorify Himself. This is the divinely established goal for man and his abilities. As created in God's image we have the ability to live in harmony with the attributes of God and accomplish the will of God.  
Isiah 43:7,21

### III. The Biblical Meaning.

- A. You are a person with an unlimited potentiality for goodness.
- B. You are a person with an unlimited potentiality for creativity.
- C. You are a person with an unlimited potentiality for fulfillment.
- D. You are a person with an unlimited potentiality for fellowship.

### IV. The Biblical Application:

- A. As believers we may not contradict our creation in how we treat ourselves or how we treat one another. John 14:34,35
- B. We must recognize the priority of the "spiritual" in our daily lives. Note the Biblical emphasis on the "inner man".
  - 1. Romans 7:22 - to delight in God's Word.
  - 2. II Cor. 5:16 - to be renewed.
  - 3. Ephesians 3:16 - to be strengthened.
- C. Genuine fulfillment must be in harmony with our creation. Those who seek fulfillment outside of the Biblical relationship with God will only find disappointment. Satisfaction is not found in possessions (Luke 12:15) but in knowing God and doing His will (Luke 12:31).
- D. Even though this creation in God's image has been defaced the sensitive believer may have a deep awareness of potentialities and relationships which are quite beyond expression and implementation.

Victor M. Matthews