

My Thoughts for Sunday, 21 June 2015

Happy Father's Day, With the Help of God

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in our image, according to our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them..." Genesis 1:26-27

My dear brothers in Christ, did you ever think that someone holds the "Trademark" and "Patent" on us as individual human creations?

Trademark, by definition: a symbol, word, or words legally registered or established by use as representing a company or product. (MAN, WOMAN)

Patent by definition: a government authority or license conferring a right or title for a set period, especially the sole right to exclude others from making, using, or selling an invention. (FOR ETERNITY)

From our Scripture above and from our knowledge of our Creator, God, it is not difficult to believe we have been "patented and trademarked" by God. God is by origin the Supreme Ruler of the universe. There is no higher power to validate His originality of creation. By His own words He made (created) man and woman in His image. No one has the right, even if one had the components and ability to do so, to duplicate this original work of God.

Take a look at what God said in His statement of intent, *"Let Us make man in our image, according to our likeness."* God is total perfection and yes, by His own Word at creation, we were to be made like Him in His image of perfection. Again, here we see His statement of intent, nothing more. Looking a few words later in the same verse, we see His Word stating just what transpired; *"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them..."* Now we see the fulfillment or completion of His intent. Man and woman were created in that image of God, in His perfection. Scripture states He formed man, *"The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed."* This "formed" was a new concept. Prior to the "forming" of man God had merely spoken the rest of His work into existence by His Word. Now He actually used substances He had already created and formed them into a new creation, man.

But wait; there is a point of origin missing. In that first statement of intent it looks as if God were speaking to someone else when He said, *"Let us make man in*

our image, according to our likeness.” Who was the other person in the US and OUR the writer spoke about? We get an idea of who that other party was from the gospel of John in John 1:1 where he wrote... *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.”* So, who was “the Word?” We look in John’s gospel, to the area where he was relating the account of John the Baptists’ testimony, *“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out, saying, ‘This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’”* John 1:15-16 There is only one person who could be the topic of this testimony, Jesus Christ, the second member of the Trinity. If we look back to the very opening verses of Genesis chapter 1, God speaks also of the third member of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”* Genesis 1:1-2 From these scriptures we can clearly see that the entire Trinity, all three persons, were present and active throughout the process of creation.

Most of us are aware of the account in Genesis chapter 3 about the temptation of Eve by the serpent and the fall into sin by our first earthly parents. All that perfection and the likeness to God was lost to mankind and the perpetuation of their sin was passed down to all generations for, according to Paul’s inspired letter to the Romans, *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”* Romans 5:12

Fathers, this is where we stand today. Many are feeling the effects of the sin they are suffering from. Many are feeling the absence of that relationship gone badly with their fathers. Some fathers might be estranged from their children through, sometimes, no fault of their own or others have lost sons and daughters in illness and death. Many of us fathers are hurting from the fact that at times we were not and are not the fathers that God has designed us to be, godly men, men who put God first in their lives and should be instilling the same qualities in our children.

Solutions like self-help, community programs, and training groups are offered and they all have their place, but their remedies are only skin deep and incomplete. They can only help to treat the symptoms, not solve the problem. Fathers, there is a much better solution to all these problems. We have been given a cure for all our ills and shortcomings. See what Paul went on to write to the

Romans; *“But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift, by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.”* Romans:5 15 This is the fact of the matter. Through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection manhood and fatherhood has been restored to those who truly wish to regain that which was lost. We have been redeemed through the blood of Christ. He has given us new life and the means to restore those relationships that have suffered and been temporarily lost. Through prayer and repentance we are able to regain that wonderful relationship called Fatherhood.

Dads, come to the feet of Jesus and listen to His instruction on being “all that you can be” as a father. Hear and take to heart the admonition Paul gave to Timothy, *“You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;”* 2 Timothy 3:15-16 Remember Paul’s instructions to the fathers in Ephesus. *“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”* Ephesians 6:4

Come home, be the Dad you were designed to be.