

GENESIS 1:26-28 IT IS THE RELATIONSHIPS, SILLY HUMAN

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

To be made in the image of God is to be created as a relational being. God created because it is his nature to be in relationship. In Christianity we understand God to have revealed himself as a Trinity of Persons in a Unity of Being. Therefore, relationship is inherent in his being. Also through the act of creation God has shared himself and is in relationship with all of creation. Not only is there the formal relationship of creator and creation, but also the relationship of continuous care and provision for the creation which is totally dependent upon him.

As God's relational nature is revealed in the realm of the divine and that of the created order, we are also to live in such relationships as his icons on earth. We are first to maintain our relationship with God, on whom we are totally dependent as created beings. We are also to be in a caring and loving relationship with the created order because we are God's stewards. Our proper relationship to God and creation means that the order we bring to the world around us is God's order and not our own.

Jesus summed up our relational identity when he said,

³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40)

Father, re-create me in your image. Through my sin and rebellion I have become so bent and deformed that others cannot see you through me. Create me anew so that I may be faithful in all my relationship; first to you, and then to my neighbor and the world. Amen.