

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

The narrative of the creation of man is introduced with a thoughtful tone, and a manifest distinction from the rest. Up to this point, it had been said, "Let there be light," and "Let there be a firmament," and "Let the earth, or waters, bring forth" such a thing; but now the word of command is turned into a word of consultation, "Let us make man, for whose sake the rest of the creatures were made: this is a work we must take into our own hands." In the former he speaks as one having authority, in this as one having affection; for his delights were with the sons of men,

Proverbs 8:31

Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

It should seem as if this were the work which he longed to be at; as if he had said, "Having at last settled the preliminaries, let us now apply ourselves to the business, Let us make man."

Man was to be a creature different from all that had been already made.

Flesh and spirit, heaven and earth, must be put together in him, and he must be allied to both worlds.

God himself not only undertakes to make him, but is pleased so to express himself as if he called a council to consider of the making of him: Let us make man. The three persons of the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, consult about it and concur in it, because man, when he was made, was to be dedicated and devoted to Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Into that great name we are baptized, for to that great name we owe our being.

Let him rule man who said, Let us make man.

Man was not made in the likeness of any creature that went before him, but in the likeness of his Creator.

The Gospel of Luke refers to Adam as the son of God, Son of his Father, having the same nature.

God's image upon man consists in these three things:

1. In his body: We demonstrate God's image and likeness in our body. We are his body.

This honor indeed God has put upon the body of man, that the Word was made flesh, Christ the Son of God was clothed with a body like ours. And we are the body of Christ.

And this we may safely say, That God made the worlds, not only the great world, but man the little world, formed in the human body.

2. In his soul: But it is the soul, the great soul, of man, that does especially bear God's image. The soul is intelligent and immortal, an influencing active soul, herein resembling God, the Father of Souls, and the soul of the world.

The soul of man, considered in its three noble faculties, understanding, will, and emotions, is perhaps the brightest clearest looking-glass in nature, to be used to see God.

Let us make man in our image, and let him have dominion. As he has the government of all other living creatures, he is, God's representative, or ruler, upon earth.

3. In his spirit: God's image upon man consists in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness: Ephesians 4:23-24; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:10; put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Ecclesiastes 7:29; Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes."

Our understanding can see divine things clearly and truly, and there are no errors nor mistakes in this knowledge.

Our will complies readily and universally with the will of God, without reluctance or resistance.

Holy and happy, were our first parents, in having the image of God upon them. And this honour, put upon man at first, is a good reason why we should not speak ill one of another (James 3:9), nor do ill one to another (Genesis 9:6), and a good reason why we should not debase ourselves to the service of sin, and why we should devote ourselves to God's service.

May the Lord renew our understanding by his sanctifying grace!