

LIVING SENT

Week One: The People Business

INTRODUCTION

Wouldn't it have been cool to have been a fly on the wall at creation listening in on the conversations between the Persons of the Godhead as they spoke the universe into being? One of the most interesting acts of creation to observe would have been the decision to make mankind, male and female, in Their image with the resulting pronouncement that creation was very good.

➤➤➤ **Why create man in God's image?**

➤➤➤ **Why only create man as the image bearers of God?**

BIBILICAL MATERIAL

We have, through scripture, God sharing just enough details for us to have some glimpse of the answers to these sorts of questions. In John 17, as Jesus begins His priestly prayer, He asks the Father to glorify Him, as the Son, so the Son may glorify the Father (v1). Jesus affirms that He and the Father have shared glory eternally from the past, even "before the world existed" (v5). One of those observations as a fly (yes, flies were created before man; therefore, a fly could have been there) would have been to see that the Father, Son, and Spirit have always existed eternally in relationship with One Another. One of the aspects of Their existence is to glorify each other. Everything God does glorifies Him and there is nothing He does that does not glorify Him.

Then, it is not surprising to consider man was created to glorify God. Therefore, one aspect of being image bearers is man lives in relationship with God and with other people. God created us with the capacity to knowingly glorify Him in order to reflect His glory (Psalm 8:5; Isaiah 43:6-7; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 1:16). We, like Jesus, glorify God as we obediently engage in His good works given to us to accomplish His will and plan:

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. - Matthew 5:16

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. - Ephesians 2:10

Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. - 1 Peter 2:12

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MISSIONARY TASK RELEVANCY

So, what about our work? If Jesus' work glorified the Father, what work of ours is the greatest glory to God? It is similar to the work of Jesus. In Luke 4:43, Jesus declares, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns (people) as well; for I was sent for this purpose." John records in his gospel 33 times that Jesus shares He had been sent by His Father. In John 20:21, Jesus tells His disciples, "as the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." It's hard to separate the purpose of preaching the good news or sharing the gospel with people from our purpose, or missionary task, of bringing glory to God.



We have a greater chance of our lives reflecting God's glory if we focus on living for our relationship with God, through faith in His Son, that is also shared in the myriad of relationships we have with others. As followers of Christ, we should be in "The People Business" as image bearers of God for the glory of God.

LIFE APPLICATION

Glorifying God will always involve some relational component (with God and/or people). Consider this truth, individually or in your group setting, utilizing the following points of discussion.

- Read the referenced passages and do a deeper dive with each one (observation, interpretation, application). If in a group setting, assign verses to sub-groups.
- Read Genesis 1:26-31 as background to the creation of man.
- Open a discussion to consider how often we connect our relationships to fulfilling God's command to always glorify Him. Do not only consider your closest friends. Also consider those that you may simply have casual or spontaneous encounters with.
- How might the Lord be guiding you to change so you may grow in seeing your life in Christ as being in "The People Business"?