

6. THE IMAGE

God prepared the environment and planted vegetation. He placed the sun, moon, and stars into the heavens. Fish and birds came next. The landscape came alive with sounds and movements. All that in just five days. On the sixth day land animals made their first appearance. To learn what else happened on day six, read *Genesis 1:26-27*.

Wow! Moses (the writer of Genesis) just opened the door to one of the rarest encounters anyone has ever witnessed. We were inside GOD'S BOARDROOM, where monumental decisions are made. The holy **Trinity** was in session. An important decision was being made.

So, who, or what, is the *Trinity*, you ask?

The Bible teaches that there is one true God—the God who reveals himself in the Bible. But the Bible also teaches that our one God is three distinct persons: *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*. Each person of the Godhead (another word for *Trinity*) is 100% God.

In the human mind, God's math doesn't add up; $1 + 1 + 1$ does not equal 1. But the holy Trinity is a mystery that only God can understand (*Isaiah 55:8-9*). Each person of the Godhead or Trinity focuses on an area of God's work; yet, God's work is carried out in perfect unity and with the full cooperation and participation of all three persons. The Father creates and preserves. The Son **reconciles** the relationship with God that was broken by sin. The Spirit gives us the gift of faith, sustains our faith with God's Word and the sacraments, and guides God's church on earth.

Did you catch the conversation? The three members of the Trinity were discussing the last item on the creation plan. They were talking about the characteristics they would give to **humankind**. They all agreed. "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, ... Let's give humans the authority to rule the earth, ... and let's have them complement each other as male and female." The Trinity also decided that humankind would watch over the other creatures, as God's caretaker for the entire creation project. To do that work, God gave us characteristics that animals do not have. Humans think, communicate, and **reason** with each other, like the three persons of the Trinity. Animals can't use their reason for much more than getting food or finding

shelter. We have imagination. Animals can't imagine. They are poor artists, terrible composers and awful writers. Humans instinctively know there is a god. None of the primates suspect there is a divine being. Nor can they read about God in the Bible, believe his promises, or worship him with their prayers.

But being *like* God isn't the same thing as having God's image. The **Image of God** is the holy and righteous will that perfectly reflects God's will. But because of sin, humans are not able to relate to one another in the same loving way that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit love each other, or us. The will that God gave to humans has been spoiled by sin. What God wants, sinners naturally hate; and what God hates, sinners, by nature, want.

God's perfect will is the core of his image. In the beginning he wanted the human creatures to reflect his love to the rest of the world, like the moon reflects sunlight. Adam and Eve wanted only to live according to his will. That perfect love was lost when they disobeyed God's command. Ever since, humans have passed the burden of sin from one generation to the next.

As sinners, it is difficult to believe that God loves us. Sin separates us from God. In fact, sinners naturally run away from God's love. Being separated from God's love is a horrible way to live. That is why God came to us. It is why he showed us how much he loves us by sending his Son to our miserable planet to be our Savior from sin. While we won't know what it is like to be *sinless* until we get to heaven, we can see what holiness looks like as we get to know Jesus by reading his Word.

END VIDEO. BEGIN CONVERSATIONS.

REMEMBER WHEN ...

How does knowing the human race was the crown of God's creation make you feel?

WORD POWER: *Trinity; reconciles; humankind; reason; image of God*

FROM THE TOUR

In what ways does each person of the Trinity play a key role in God's plan for us?

Our tour today heard bad news and good news. What news was bad? What news was good?

LEARN MORE

Read *Isaiah 55:8-9*. How does this text help you accept things in the Bible that you don't understand?

Read *1 John 3:1*. What is your relationship with God like because he made you his *child*?

Read *Deuteronomy 6:6-7*. How does our love for God lead us to obey his commandments?

TAKE-AWAYS

Ask God to help you and your family get to know Jesus by continuing to read his Word.

Over the next few days, list some things you already know about Jesus.

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God presides in the great assembly;
he renders judgment among the “gods.”

Psalm 82:1