

God and Man

God in heaven is a Spirit. **God is a Spirit:...** *John 4:24*. Man was created in the *image and likeness* of God. **And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.** *Genesis 1:26-27*. Even if you don't believe the explanation of the genesis of man referred to as "creationism", creationism is definitely a useful starting point of reference for man to come to know more about himself and the supreme God. (The term "man" in the preceding verses and throughout this book refers to "mankind", both male and female.)

In order for man to gain an understanding of himself and God in the context of the phrase "image and likeness", man needs to know more about the "spirit" generally *and* the "Spirit" of God specifically. As the Spirit, God is a *trinity*. **For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.** *1 John 5:7*. While some people replace "the Word" with "the Son" (*see, Matthew 28:19*) when describing the trinity of God, an explanation of the relationship between "the Word" and "the Son" is needed and provided below. (Please note, there are many other combinations of verses in the Bible proving God is a trinity in one Spirit, but *1 John 5:7* was cited for conciseness.)

More specifically, the "three aspects" of God as a trinity are one spirit, which means they are jointly and severally (collectively and individually) a Spirit. Consider a peach. The skin, "meat", and pit make up the peach. Each is part of the peach, but each is different yet "peachy". The Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost are of the same Spirit as God, and each is God. For example, **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** *John 1:1*. (The use of "was" is in the sense of an eternal spirit.)

God *is* also love. **...God is love.** *1 John 4:8 and 16*. Because God is love and a trinity as one Spirit with three distinct aspects or portions, each of the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost are also the "love of God". For example, **...the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.** *Romans 5:5*. The association of God with love is not just a passing reference of adulation or admiration. The true love of God is His spiritual nature, because He is naturally of the Spirit.

God is the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost, and each is the Spirit and Love!

God is recognizable by all three aspects of the Spirit as the love of God. As explained in detail below, the Word is from the Father as a statement of His love *and* His will for all mankind. The Holy Ghost is from the Father as the *power* of His love *and* His will for each of us, personally and individually, provided we

have already received His Word/love in our heart and choose to live by it. The will of God itself is how we come to know the Father as God and the source of the love of God. He decides how He reveals Himself to us as God, and *always* for our benefit because He *IS* love. Thus, when we come to know His Word and the power of His Word by the Holy Ghost (i.e., the Spirit of Truth as explained below), we come to know the Father because He is the author and possessor of both.

God is indiscriminate and no respecter of persons. **...Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: Acts 10:34.** The love of God is available for all who want it, because His Spirit is available to all who desire Him. Stated another way, receiving *His* love is *both* voluntary and conditional to us, simply because *we* must desire Him as His Word and His power in the truth of His Word by which we come to know the Spirit which He is. Still, a lot of people confuse “indiscriminate” as properly used in the context of being “no respecter of persons” with “unconditional” meaning without condition or prerequisite. Receiving God’s Spirit is most definitely conditional!

In opposition to the supreme God, there is a god of this temporal world *other than* God almighty. **But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 2 Corinthians 4:4. (Emphasis added).** The Bible says every good and perfect gift is from above. **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. James 1:17.** For all intents and purposes today, the god of this world is *NOT* from above. Therefore, despite what people choose to believe, the Father is *not* the god of this world. Likewise, not all people are the children of God in heaven. Some are the children of the god of this world.

The god of this world is the devil which is the spirit of evil and the enemy of God in heaven. *See, Matthew 13:39-43.* Because this world is the domain of the god of this world, any friend of the world is also an enemy of God. **Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. James 4:4.** (Note: the use of the term “enemy” should not be understood as a “threat” to God the almighty Father or His supremacy. God is *all* powerful, otherwise He is not God.)

As to mankind, the phrase “[l]et us make man in our image, after our likeness” (*Genesis 1:26 above*) does *not* mean men and women are created in the *nature* of God as a spirit. Mankind has flesh and bones, but a spirit does not. **...for a spirit hath not flesh and bones,...Luke 24:39.** Moreover, our love is *not* “of God”, because we are not naturally born of the Spirit of God. The “image” of God *does* mean every person is constructed *as a trinity of one*. (“Likeness” is covered below.) As a trinity, every person has a body, soul, and spirit (of man). **And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (Emphasis added).** (Please note, there are many other combinations of verses proving man’s body, soul, and spirit (of man) composition, but

1 *Thessalonians* 5:23 is cited here for conciseness.)

Each person is a soul living in a body and
having a spirit/will of man

The Bible says God *formed* man from the “dust of the ground” and made him a living soul. **And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.** *Genesis* 2:7. Again, even if you don’t believe in creationism, the phrase “dust of the ground” is best understood to refer to the elements of the earth on the Periodic Table of Elements defining the natural world, and is intended to show a dissimilarity between man and God. Unlike God, man is an organic creature by nature, and each person is an individual of like kind. When the first man became a living soul, *all of mankind* to follow, both male and female, became destined to become living souls.

The soul is the “life” of each person (*Genesis* 2:7) created in the “likeness” of the “life” of God which is attributed to His “soul”. **Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.** *Matthew* 12:18 (*Emphasis added*); see also *Isaiah* 42:1. As the “life” of each person and God is attributed to their soul, so too is the “life” of every living creature on land and in the sea attributed to its soul and procreation of its kind. For example, and by way of indirect reference, **...and every living soul died in the sea.** *Revelation* 16:3. As to the body and gender specifically, the Bible says the flesh of the first woman called “Eve” was created from the flesh of the first man called “Adam”. **And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.** *Genesis* 2:22-23; see also, *1 Corinthians* 11:8-9. God made man and woman in the first instance and equipped them to reproduce more living souls of their kind as their offspring. **And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.** *Genesis* 1:28.

The New Testament sometimes refers to humans as “carnal” creations, and the “lusts of our flesh” as part of our carnality. **Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.** *Ephesians* 2:2-3. But note, the term “desires” in *Ephesians* 2:3 above is *properly and correctly* rendered “wills” as per the original notes of the King James Bible.

Therefore, the phrase “desires of the flesh and mind” in *Ephesians* 2:2-3 above is properly understood as the “wills of the flesh and mind”. Because they act in concert as proven below, the Bible uses the singular phrase “will of the flesh” to mean the collective “wills of the flesh and mind”. By definition, the “will of

the flesh” is the joint enterprise of the *carnal mind and body* to pursue a lifestyle fulfilling the lusts of the natural man according to the will of his flesh and mind. **...Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:13 (Emphasis added).** By way of analogy, the flesh is the “vehicle” and the will of the flesh and mind is the driver within that vehicle. Together they go places and do things *displaying* the will of the flesh by conduct and adapting to one’s surroundings. (The “will of God” is not specifically stated in *John 1:13* immediately above, but the concept is well accepted, easily understood, scripturally evidenced elsewhere, and addressed below.)

In the context of “evolution” as it relates to environmental adaptation of the flesh which Charles Darwin observed and wrote about, the combination of the flesh of man as a natural body *and* his will of the flesh have analogous similarities in other creatures on earth. All living creatures (including man) adaptively evolve to live in synergy with their environment, but man is the *only* creature with a “spirit”. Stated another way, all living creatures have a “will of the flesh”, but only man has a “will of man” which IS his spirit! **...Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:13 (Emphasis added).** As such, the spirit/will of man separates man from *all* other living things, including beasts, fowl, insects, fish, etc. As evolution is a theory to explain the morphology of the flesh, evolution does *nothing* to address, explain, or disprove the spirit/will of man.

Man’s spirit is closely associated with his soul (i.e., his life) as proven throughout this work. **For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 (Emphasis added).** As God is no respecter of persons, every person was given a spirit/will of man capable of choosing to live by the will of their own flesh *OR* the will of God. Our choice is owned by us individually as the gatekeeper of our own soul. **For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?... 1 Corinthians 2:11.** Arguably, our own soul is truly the only personal “property” we can possess. **In your patience possess ye your souls. Luke 21:19.**

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