



MADE IN HIS IMAGE

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by Sherry L. Kirton, 2014

Objective

Know Him. Make Him known.

Goals

1. Learn God's actual attributes.
2. Be able to discern His handiwork and methods: love, faith, charity.
3. Recognize the enemy's activity and plan.
4. Follow God in our relations to Him, others, and self.

Solution

By learning who God is and what He is like, what looks like Him and His handiwork, we can then know what we are like and what we should be and how our actions should look.

Project Outline: may be done in several segments noted by bold underlined titles & questions

Creation in Genesis: how we were created holy, and why we are sinful

1:1-25 He creates the things we would need

Each pronounced good

26-31 Then creates man and woman from man's side

Both pronounced to be in His image

Rest 2:1-4

2:5-25 Detailed creating of Adam & Eve

2:15-17 Adam & Eve given rules

Then The Fall 3:6-13.

They break the one eating rule. Description begins with God regularly walking with man. Image affirmed, but marred.

Sin has become a part of our nature. Our spiritual eyes are now clouded by our physical eyes. **We are concerned with how we look on the outside and not the inside.**

What's our image?

We are supposed to look like our Father! -- Alistair Begg

What does He look like?

1 Thess. 5:14-15 ~~Matthew 18:23-35~~

Colossians 3:12 As holy and dearly loved clothe yourselves with compassion, humility, kindness, meekness, and patience,

1 Cor 13:4. Love is patient and kind...

Our family likeness

2 Timothy 4:1-2. Correct, rebuke, & encourage with great patience.

What makes us valuable?

Write on board:

Is a baby valuable? Why?

Is an old person valuable? Why?

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Ask:

- Why are you valuable?
- Is it based on what you do:
 - Now? When you mature?
- To whom you are related:
 - on earth? in heaven?

The Enemy

- Your enemy **hates** you. He knows you are **intelligent** so he tells you that you are stupid.
- He knows you are **loved** so he tells you that you need to earn it, or to find someone else to make you feel it. He doesn't want you to experience the love you have, so he will go so far as to lie about who really loves you and what love really is.
- He knows you are **talented** so he tells you that you aren't good enough.
- He knows **you have life**, and as children of God, you have it more abundantly than those still lost, so he says you have no future, no place in this world, no reason to live, love, or care about anyone and most especially about yourself.
- He is the **thief**, the **Liar**, the **accuser** of the brethren. He hates you, but uses sweet words in your vulnerable places to **destroy** you, or render you **ineffective**. John 10:10. He needs you **to give up** and believe his lies so you cannot cause him more trouble while he attacks your family and friends. You are too powerful for him if you even try a little because Jesus abides in you and works through you.

How do you combat this?

- Know The Truth** and the Truth will set you free. He is The Truth. He is Life. He is strength and power and refuses to leave you. He ABIDES in you. John 14.
- Pick three lies** you have heard about yourself; **find the Truth and repeat it**. Repeat the truth to yourself to combat the lies you once carried. Ephesians 6:10-20. Put on His armor. Repeat it to your friends to restore them to the truth.

Be Unique - Be Different!

Write on board: the verses listed below

What makes you You? List the positive things that make you unique in the world, your community, & your family.

Know that you aren't perfect and that you will make mistakes as well as have trouble doing some things well or at all. These things also make you unique and can be places where God's glory shines through because it is obvious in these places that you are not the one in control or talented. Only God can work through you to do these things well and edify (do good) for others, so here, He will more easily and obviously get the glory. Do not be afraid of these things; keep asking God to work through you and to help you let Him. **Acts 2:38-39; 1 Corinthians 12 (7-for the common good) ; Romans 14:16-19 (unity and mutual building up), Ephesians 3:14-21; 4-5; John 3:34 (He gives the Spirit without measure);**

...again with the giving so that the people would be equipped, built up to minister, and be in unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son to become fully mature in the Son's stature. not tossed, no longer children, not deceived, speaking the truth in love, and joined to the properly working body.

These are manifestations of The Holy Spirit's presence and working out something that edifies the brethren or convicts the unredeemed. You do not possess spiritual gifts, you are given the gift of the Holy Spirit. All believers will manifest whatever is needed at the time. We are not given all manifestations simultaneously, but as needed, which is why he had to tell them to do it, move, use the Spirit's manifestation when He manifests. Do not delay, but trust and move. And as one body we move together, but only if we trust when He manifests that we move. We are not to use our natural talents in place of His Spirit's manifestation. We are to use His Spirit, instead.

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You Are Sent - Serve in Power

Consider: Let's say there are nine gifts and the Holy Spirit gives you three and someone else three. There are still three left out. So He sends you on a mission. You've been told that He is all you need and you are fully equipped. So how is that possible? Yes, He sent them out in pairs, but Phillip ministered to the Ethiopian eunuch alone. Was he fully equipped? Of course, He had the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. He is all you need.

The actual gift He gives is His Holy Spirit (see above verses).

1. He is fully God and living in you. You are His holy temple and you carry Him to places He wants to change.
2. He sends us two by two, partnered up, watching each other's backs, working together.
3. So we bring all of the possible manifestations with us wherever we go by bringing Him.

Now, if you have a need He fulfills it through making His presence known or making Himself known. He manifests. He is the gift.

So why does Paul talk about gifts?

Let's be more clear. Say, "giftings" or manifestations. We confuse gifts with talents. Talents are I. Your physical makeup. You were born with talents. I used to teach, like so many others, that you were reborn with spiritual gifts that you could find through testing and develop and hone with practice. In reality, you may see Him manifest a few regularly because they were needed regularly. However, He is not bound by your needs nor your talents. He is not stopped by your lack, gifts, money, talents, mental agility, education. He is greater than that.

He is Almighty: He who began a good work in you is able to complete it. Philippians 1:6

He who resides in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4.

Forget spiritual gift battery tests. Those only assess your talents. Take the same test again in three years and you will score nearly the same.

"Taste and see that the LORD is good." Psalm 34:8.

Who gets the glory if you do something naturally? Who does if you were not capable and you relied on Him to do it?

Focus on 1 Corinthians 14:12

"So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church."

Discuss:

what it might be like to live walking each moment ready to serve all the while knowing that you are fully equipped and serve best when you are called to work outside your natural talents.

Suggestions for reading and clarification:

Blackaby, H. T., & Blackaby, M. D. (2004). *What's so spiritual about your gifts? (Workbook).* Sisters, Or: Multnomah.

Cunningham, L., Hamilton, D. J., & Rogers, J. (2000). *Why not women?: a fresh look at scripture on women in missions, ministry, and leadership.* Seattle, Wash.: YWAM Pub.