

**St. Matthew AME Church
Bible Study
Monday, June 14, 2010**

Genesis 1:26-28

- I. **The culmination of creation was God's desire to have a relationship with man.**
 - A. **God's original plan was for man to share in His authority and rule, not serve Him as a servant. This is why Jesus is "King of Kings" and "Lord of lords" (Rev. 19:16), not the King of subjects.**
 - B. **God's relationship with man is of paramount importance to Him.**
 - 1. **So much so that the first thing God gave man was His image and likeness because that was the first thing God wanted man to have.**
 - 2. **The second thing God did was to place man in His presence. This is why man was placed in the Garden of Eden (paradise) which is where God's presence was manifested.**

- II. **God's greatest desire was that man would act like Him and live with Him.**
 - A. **The word "image" means resemblance or exact likeness. Therefore to be made in God's image means that man resembles God and is an exact likeness of Him. He has God's true nature and His spiritual and moral character.**
 - 1. **God wants relationship with us, that's the bottom line and everything God established for man was built on this desire for fellowship.**
 - B. **God created man for this specific purpose: to have dominion over all the earth; with an image different from that of all other parts of His creation. (Psalm 8:4-6)**

- III. **God is a God of principles. What God intended for man and man's current status are quite different. This difference is because man chose to disregard the principles that are an inherent part of God's creation.**
 - A. **Man's ability to fulfill his purpose and to be all God intended him to be was predicated on the requirement that he obey the principles God established when He created man.**
 - 1. **These principles are found throughout the Bible (although they are not referred to as principles). They may be referred to as God's laws, commands, and commandments, precepts, ordinances, decrees or Word.**
 - 2. **Each of these words carry the basic concept of a principle, which is a law that is established to preserve and protect a created thing and to assure its maximum performance.**
 - B. **Principles contain these inherent characteristics:**
 - 1. **Principles are permanent, time may change but God's principles remain the same**
 - 2. **Principles never change; they remain constant. Society's standards may be modified, but not God's standards.**
 - 3. **Principles work anywhere. God's principles apply no matter when or where we live.**
 - 4. **Principles protect the product. God's principles are intended to protect us from harm.**
 - 5. **Principles can never be broken. God's Word will always hold true and consistent.**

6. Principles when violated produce destruction. What seems right to us but violates God's principles will cause a breakdown.
7. Principles contain inherent judgment. There is a consequence when we disobey God's principles.

God said to Adam that if they violated His principles they would die. (Genesis 2:16-17) Death is the absence of the presence of God in a man or a woman's life. Relationship with man is God's greatest desire and the presence of God in our lives is man's greatest need.