

## “Sacred Worth We Were Created”

Genesis 1: 26-27

Sunday July 8, 2018

A pastor and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly gates waiting for them.

'Come with me,' said St. Peter to the taxi driver.

The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an Olympic size pool.

'Oh, my word, thank you,' said the taxi driver.

Next, St. Peter led the pastor to a rough old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set.

'Wait, I think you are a little mixed up,' said the pastor. 'Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all I was a pastor, went to church every day, and preached God's word.'

'Yes, that's true.' St Peter rejoined, ' But during your sermons people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.'

Let us pray!

Last week we delved into the beginning of creation and God's turning chaos into order. This week my life feels less chaotic and more orderly. As long as, I don't misplace another key, loose the AC, the temperature in the parsonage doesn't rise to 86 degrees, and I don't have to go to a hotel.

As a part of order coming out of chaos, Genesis focuses our attention light and darkness, water and dry land, heaven and earth, land animals and sea animals, as well as, birds of the air and plants of the ground. After each day of creating God saw all that He made, and it was very good.

Then it is time to create human beings. He created male and female in His image. At the end He saw what He had made, and it was very good.

I love this passage and its affirmation that men and women, boys and girls, are made in the image of God. The image of God means that we are with sacred worth to God.

You and I were given a soul. That soul is the essence of who we are, and it is of sacred worth to God. The word for soul in the Greek of the Bible is "psyche." It comes into our English as "psyche," which refers to the mind

you and I have. That mind includes our thinking abilities, our feeling abilities, and our motivating abilities. In essence, the psyche is our personhood.

In the eyes of God, you are of sacred worth. Some people struggle with this concept of sacred worth. In fact, they struggle with their concept of worth. You and I were born with worth...with sacred worth to God and to ourselves.

Many of us struggle, because no one told us that we are of sacred worth. In fact, some of us were raised in a household of perfectionism or a household in which one parent was absent all the time.

In these cases, many of us grew trying to be perfect for those around us in hopes that we would be loved and would see as valuable.

Yet, we did not realize that our worth has already been establish because we were created in the image of God. God made us of sacred worth. Each of you are of sacred worth...not because you did anything, but God who created you and me in His image, made us of sacred worth.

Those people who as sitting next to you are of sacred worth. Those people who are sitting in the back or the front of the church are made of sacred worth.

Your neighbor is of sacred worth. I don't mean just the nice ones, I mean the one who plays the music too loud, the one who parks by you drive way, the one who drives erratically.

The two women, from my previous church, who helped me drive down here, got behind an erratic driver on their way home. He would swear all over the two-lane road. If you got a head of him, he would catch up with you. They called 911. Eventually the cops pulled that man over.

The person who looks drunk and is still buying alcohol or the person who loves descent and in order when he purchases his alcohol but is a closet drinker is of sacred worth.

My daughter has two law licenses. One is for Texas and one is for New Mexico. In early spring, she and I went to Santa Fe along with others, for her to take her oath as a lawyer.

One of the speakers at the ceremony told a story about himself. He was a lawyer who had received many of awards. Yet, at a certain point in his law practice he was going to different Wal-Greens in the big city every morning before work and getting as many as seven bottles of liquid. He would hide them in his pants pocket,

his suit jacket pocket, and anywhere else he could. Then he would go to the bathroom and consume them throughout of the course of the day.

There were all the other normal times of day that he would indulge with everyone else. It became apparent to his very sharp administrative assistance what was going on. She called the helpline for lawyers who are struggling with alcohol addiction. The administrative assistance, his wife, and some other professionals sat him down and confronted him with the situation. Yes, things changed.

For what ever reason this lawyer had no idea of his sacred worth.

I want you to know that you are of sacred and so is the person who begs at the corner, has lots of tats, or the one who sexual orientation is not hederal sexual or trans. Whatever you belief is true in these matter, know that each person in this world, whether they of any ethnicity, any country of origin, religion, gender, any orientation, are still of sacred worth.

Can we see them like our Creator God sees them? Can we see them like our God the Son, Jesus Christ sees them?