

The Glory and the Misery of Man

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 1:26-28.

B. We will never understand what is going on in our lives unless we understand the nature of man.

II. What man was meant to be.

A. Man was made in the image and likeness of God.

1. This cannot be physical in nature because God does not have a body.
2. There is nothing unique in the soul of a man that would distinguish him.
3. The image of God looks to the spirit of man. Fundamentally, man is a spirit expressing himself through the avenues of the soul and the body.

B. The faculties of spirit.

1. Creativity.
2. Communication.
3. Morality.

C. Man's commands.

1. He was to fill the earth and multiply.
2. He was to subdue the earth.

D. Man retains God's image, but he has lost God's glory.

1. Image and likeness is not the same thing.
2. Image is the equipment and capacity to be godlike.
3. Likeness is the functioning of that equipment properly or improperly.

E. Repudiation of self-confidence and reliance upon God is the means to manifest the likeness of God. (Colossians 3:9)

1. Jesus must enter a man to restore him through every sort of circumstance.
2. God is changing believers to godlikeness again.

Application questions:

1. What is the image of God? Can a person lose it?

2. How can a believer practice the likeness of God? Explain.

3. What things do you find yourself relying upon yourself for lately? How can you find rest and success in relying upon God in these matters?
