



New Beginnings, Volume 29, 2008
Pastor Jim Verkest, Mosinee UMC

Genesis 1:27

“So God created people in his own image; God patterned them after himself; male and female he created them.”

I’ve never had a doubt in my mind even as a young person that God created human life. With all due respect to my scientific friends who want to believe for whatever reason that humans evolved in some manner from a life form that just happened to come into being, that’s a fantasy that I just can’t subscribe to. There is no rational explanation for life that does not deal with the issues of intelligent design and first cause. Evolution is certainly valid in discussing some aspects of life development, but it does not in any scientific way explain human life. There is no link to some life form that precedes human development. We did not evolve from apes, or other primates that exist, nor is it logical and reasonable to believe we evolved from some single cell protoplasm that miraculously came into being on the debris from some exploding star that has no discernible existence outside of God. Science will tell you that nothing comes from nothing. Faith will tell you that God is. God is not created.

Having said that, what does the author of Genesis want us to learn from this passage of scripture? Certainly God is not in the form of some endearing gray haired old man or in the form of human likeness as we perceive it. This passage goes to a much deeper understanding of human life. Being created in God’s image means that at our very essence we are spiritual creatures.

We are spiritual creatures fitted with an earthly body. As God created the heavens and earth, he chose to make human life the capstone of that creation. He wanted humans, both male and female to enjoy a unique relationship with Him and one another. This relationship was described by Jesus with the word love – unconditional love that only the Father/Creator of life possessed. We were designed to be people who loved and obeyed God and who loved and honored one another. By living out our relationships in love we would reveal the true nature of God or in other words be in His image. Because God did not create puppets, we were given free will. God wants our love and obedience but He does not will it. He could, but His desire was that we would choose to love and worship our creator. Unfortunately we chose to love and worship ourselves and our own selfish desires.

What would it take to return to that perfect idea that God had for human beings at creation? It takes each of us becoming reconciled to God and God’s plans and purposes. I believe that Jesus is both Son of God and God revealed. He is the Way the Truth and the Life. In Him we can find the way to a new beginning that will let us become in the image of God once again. I pray you will seek that true God created image.