Daily Devotion #58

Made in the Image of God

**Genesis 9:6 (NASB) “***For in the image of God He made man*.”

I’ll never forget one of my elementary school art projects. In those days, way back in the dark ages, haha, we had art classes that were separate from the elementary classrooms of today. Each student was responsible for developing the artistic side of himself, and I loved it. We used all kinds of materials to make shapes and pictures and objects. Once such project was to use modeling clay to make imprints of various objects to show how clay can be used to imitate the original. For my project, I used a metal spoon handle, a key, one of my fingers and a few other objects. Then we baked the clay to harden it. When it cooled, I colored it with a variety of colors giving it a psychedelic aura. My mom kept that project for years. In fact, I found it in some of our things that she had given me many years later. It took me back to those days of life when we learned a lot about what life was about.

As I think about that project, I am reminded of what it means to be made in the image of God. The word image means resemblance or likeness. God made mankind in His likeness to resemble Himself. That doesn’t mean God has two eyes, ears, and a nose, but that we were made to reflect Him. We have the ability to laugh, feel emotion and sorrow because God is that way.

The difference however between man and God is that God is perfect. He is perfect in all the ways He expresses His emotion and His reaction to events in life. But we are not. We are totally consumed by our sinful natures that we inherited from our first parents, Adam and Eve, who disobeyed God and therefore brought sin on themselves and all others.

It is important to understand that God made mankind in His image. Race and different nationalities, skin color or anything else that makes a person speak differently or look different has nothing to do with the fact that we all are image-bearers of God. Sadly, many have tried to set various people groups aside as inferior or not as valuable and some have even considered others as being nonhuman simply because of their physical differences or where they are from in the world.

But not God. God loves all people. His Word clearly tells us that. ***John 3:16 (NASB)*** *16  "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”* The word world speaks of the human race, the totality of the human race. To God there is no difference between a man’s skin color and how he speaks or where he is from. Human life was created by God and should be treated the same way God treats everyone, with love and grace. ***Philippians 2:3-7 (NASB)*** *3  “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4  do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5  Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6  who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7  but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men*.”

If you listen to God carefully, you will see that His love for the human race was and is so great that He came to the earth and took on human form to show us how to live with one another. We are to be selfless and humble in our dealings with one another, always considering others – anyone - more important than ourselves. This was the attitude of Christ who took on the likeness of man to rescue us from our sinful selves and show us the better way. The way to eternal life, eternal life that is open to all mankind. It is a gift to all who will turn from their sinful ways and surrender their hearts to the Lord of grace and mercy and love.

In these days, there is so much frustration and hate. Let us do all we can to remember that we are all made in the image of our Creator. The Creator who loves and forgives and sees all people as priceless treasures.