



Statement of Faith - Creation - Man

The Creation – The creation (all material things, all mankind, and all angels), exist for the purpose of manifesting the glory of God. He created the physical universe (including mankind), in six literal days. God rules over the entire creation, being the rightful owner and proprietor thereof, bringing all things into conformity with the purpose of His will. (Gen 1:1-2:3, Ex 20:11, 1 Chr 29:11-13, Psa 148, Prov 16:4, Isa 42:8-12, 1 Cor 8:6, Eph 1:9-11, Rev 4:11)

The creation (all material things, all mankind, and all angels), exist for the purpose of manifesting the glory of God. - It is clear from scripture that God expects to be glorified in His creation. Again and again the creatures are seen praising God for His great power and wisdom, and even commanded by God to do so.

Psalms 148:1-5 - Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! 2 **Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! 3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light!** 4 Praise Him, highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens! 5 **Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.** NASB

Indeed it was not necessary for God to create all things but chose to do so making it a totally free act of His sovereign will. It is clear from scripture that God's creative acts make Him worthy of praise and that He created them for the purpose of manifesting His glory.

Isaiah 43:7 - Everyone who is called by My name, And **whom I have created for My glory,** Whom I have formed, even whom I have made. " NASB

Revelation 4:11 - 11 "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, **to receive glory and honor** and power; **for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created.**" NASB

Psalms 19:1-2 - The **heavens are telling of the glory of God;** And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. NASB

Even in God's redemptive plan, His end is to be glorified in the objects of His redemption. This is a recurring theme throughout scripture.

Ephesians 1:11-12 - 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 **to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.** NASB

Romans 9:22-24 - 22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? 23 And **He did so in order that He might make known the riches of His glory** upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles. NASB

1 Peter 2:9 - 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, **that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you** out of darkness into His marvelous light; NASB

It should be said that a simple consideration of all that God has done in creation causes one to stand in awe of God's great power and creative wisdom. Indeed the greatness of His excellent virtues are far beyond anything that can be imagined by any creature. We

cannot even consider it all, not even the smallest part of it, let alone possess the power to create it out of nothing or sustain for many long ages. Grudem writes....."Who could make all of this? Or who could make it out of nothing? Who could sustain it day after day for endless years? Such infinite power, such intricate skill, is completely beyond our comprehension. When we meditate on it, we give glory to God!"

Isaiah 45:12 - 12 "It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands, And I ordained all their host." NASB

Proverbs 3:19-20 - 19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens. 20 By His knowledge the deeps were broken up, And the skies drip with dew. NASB

Indeed God's creative power invokes the highest and most excellent praise from the inmost part of our being! At times we are lost for words to even express to Him the wonder, awe, and glory due His name!

Psalms 148:7-13 - 7 Praise the LORD from the earth, Sea monsters and all deeps; 8 Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word; 9 Mountains and all hills; Fruit trees and all cedars; 10 Beasts and all cattle; Creeping things and winged fowl; 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples; Princes and all judges of the earth; 12 Both young men and virgins; Old men and children. 13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven. NASB

He created the physical universe (including mankind), in six literal days. – It is clear from the context of scripture that God created the "heavens and the earth" in six literal 24 hour days. This is evident from several texts of scripture dealing with the six days of creations. As in the verse in the Ten Commandments where the scripture declares this, the context of the Ten Commandments uses the word day several times, and every single time its meaning is of a literal 24 hour day.

Exodus 20:8-11 - 8 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy. NASB

Another example would be that of the text of Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31 where the phrase "there was evening and there was morning" is repeated to emphasize the fact that they were literal 24 hour days.

Genesis 1:31 - 31 And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. NASB

It is clear from scripture that mankind was created on the sixth day of creation. A simple literal reading of the text makes this clear.

Genesis 1:24-2:1 - 24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so. 25 And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good. 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given

every green plant for food ";and it was so. 31 And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, **the sixth day**. NASB

God rules over the entire creation, being the rightful owner and proprietor thereof, bringing all things into conformity with the purpose of His will. – It is clear from scripture that the above statement is true in every way. This was dealt with extensively in the statement under God. Please refer to that section for a detailed analysis.

Psalms 103:19 - 19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens; And **His sovereignty rules over all**. NASB

Ephesians 1:11-12 - 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will**, NASB

Man – Mankind, male and female, are distinct from all the other living creatures being created in the image of God. Therefore, mankind is of infinite value before God, this being manifested in the price paid for his redemption, and when created by God was holy and good. Mankind is under Gods authority and is accountable to God for his actions, speech, thoughts and motives. (**Gen 1:27, Ecc 12:13-14, Eze 18:3-24, Luke 2:14, John 3:16, Rom 2:16, 3:19, Heb 4:12-13**)

Mankind, male and female, are distinct from all the other living creatures being created in the image of God. – It is clear from scripture that mankind is distinct from all other living creatures. This can be seen in the text of Genesis 1:28-30.

Genesis 1:27-30 - 27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; **and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**" 29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30 and to every beast of the earth and **to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth** which has life, I have given every green plant for food ";and it was so. NASB

Mankind is the only creature said to be created "***in the image of God.***" This is said both of man and of woman. They are both created in the image of God.

Genesis 1:26-27 - 26 Then God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness**; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 And God created man in His own image, **in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

This means that they possess interrelational capabilities like God does. Mankind was made "***according to the likeness of God.***" We were created "***in the image of God,***" with an intelligent, spiritual, emotional and interpersonal capacity, just like God. This makes man distinct from all other creatures. Mankind has an intelligence and interrelational capacity far beyond that of any other creature. Consider the creative power of the mind of man. This alone sets him apart from all other creatures. There are several ways in which mankind is in the likeness and image of God, but an exhaustive list wouldn't even do the subject justice. Only as we could learn all about what God and man are like could we be able to discern all the similarities. Therefore we will suffice to point out a few general categories that mankind is like God, in His image.....these would include but not be limited too;

- Moral aspects, ability to make moral choices
- Intelligence
- Emotional Capacities
- Spiritual Aspects
- Relational Aspects

There are a plethora of scriptures which could be used to see these. Here are a few.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 - 11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He **has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man** will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end. NASB

Psalms 8:5-6 - Yet Thou hast made **him a little lower than God, And dost crown him with glory and majesty!** 6 Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet, NASB

Therefore, mankind is extremely valuable before God, this being manifested in the price paid for his redemption, and when created by God was holy and good. – It is clear from scripture that man possesses a great value to God. Mankind is said in the scripture to be of “more value” than animals.

Luke 12:6-7 - 6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? And yet not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; **you are of more value than many sparrows.** NASB

Luke 12:24- 24 "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; and they have no storeroom nor barn; and yet God feeds them; **how much more valuable you are than the birds!** NASB

Further, it is quite evident that mankind possesses a unique and special relation to God, specifically for the purposes of God in redemption. Even God’s only begotten Son was **“made in the likeness of men.”**

Phillipians 2:7-8 - 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, **and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man,** He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. NASB

This value of man was expressed in the most profound way when God sent His Son to be sacrificed as a price for the redemption of mankind. Although the redemption of Christ will be proficient for the whole creation, it purchased a unique and profound salvation and reconciliation to God for mankind.

Titus 3:4-7 - 4 But **when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,** 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 **whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,** 7 that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. NASB

It is also clear from scripture that when mankind was originally created by God, he was referred to as “very good,” but then fell into a state of sinful evil which made it necessary for God to redeem mankind.

Genesis 1:31 - 31 And God saw all that He had made, and **behold, it was very good.** And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. NASB

Mankind is under Gods authority and is accountable to God for his actions, speech, thoughts and motives. – It is clear from scripture that mankind will give an accounting to God for his actions. God has commanded men to live in accountability for the moral choices he makes in life.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - 13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. 14 **For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.** NASB

Romans 14:10-12 - 10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? **For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.** 11 For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God." 12 **So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.** NASB

2 Corinthians 5:10 - 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, **that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done,** whether good or bad. NASB

This accountability is also clearly established for the words that we speak.

Matthew 12:36-37 - 36 "And I say to you, **that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.** 37 "For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned ." NASB

In fact, even the secret things of the heart we will give an accounting to God for.

Romans 2:15-16 - 15 in that they show the work of the Law **written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness,** and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, 16 on the day when, according to my gospel, **God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.** NASB

Therefore it is imperative for mankind to find himself with rightstanding before God, lest he find himself to be the recipient of God's justice for evil which he/she has thought, spoken, or acted out.