

In Gen 1, 2 and 3 we immediately read what God thinks about mankind. He demonstrates who we are, what we have been made for and what our purpose is in life.

A) Identity



Gen 1:26,27



Who do man and woman reflect?

If you want to know who you are in the kingdom of God, then take a look at God. Just as you would look at yourself in the mirror. You have just read that you are made in God's image. Let us therefore take a look at four aspects of God's being in order for us to discover who we are.

1. Which aspect of God is described here?



John 3:16, 1 John 3:1 and 1 John 4:7-10,16

We read that God is love. God wants to give his love completely to man. He longs for you to love yourself and for you to be able to love others.

We are loved and have been made to love God and others!



Write down how you feel about yourself and how you experience what God thinks about you. Also note if you love yourself and if you experience that God loves you.

2. Which aspect of God is described here?



2 Sam 22:2-4 Rev. 4:11, 5:12

God is a worthy God. We worship him because he is worthy of receiving honor and praise. In God's being, great importance is attached to value. God as a Father values his children. He is happy when his creation knows their value and that they too are worthy. Everyone who knows his own value shall give value to others.

We are people of value and have been made to treat each other with respect!



Do you feel valued? Write down which aspects in your life you find valuable.

3. Which aspect of God is described here?



Gen 1:1,26,31

God is a creator. He loves making things. That is how we were made. Everybody has something which can be used to serve and help others. If you can discover what your talents and gifts are and can use these, then that will give a real sense of satisfaction. Just like God you can then say: "It is well made, good job!"

We are made for a purpose in order to achieve something of value in life.



Which things give you energy and bring you pleasure? Have you discovered doing which things suit you? Write a few things down which you **already** do and some which you would still like to do.

4. Which aspect of God is described here?



John 4:34

In the life of Jesus we see an important characteristic of God, namely that He could choose to do the will of God. God himself chooses to love. He does not have to do this but chooses to do so. In the same way, Jesus chooses to do God's will.

Just as God **gave** freedom to Adam and Eve to choose whether they trust him or **whether they would** eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, so you can also make choices in life.

We are free to choose.



Are you free to choose? Do you sometimes feel as though you do things that you don't actually want to do? Write down the things that you think of.

When God made Adam and looked at man, he said it was very good. In the same way God looks at you and says: "It is VERY GOOD!"

Three in one

In a previous study we learned that God is three in one. People are also three in one, namely spirit, soul and body. We have contact with God through our spirit which is our conscience and intuition. With our soul we think, feel and make choices.

B) Authority



Gen 1:26-28

The second aspect of who you are in the kingdom has to do with authority. Right from the start God has given power and authority to people, both to male and female. We clearly see in God's being that he gives leadership. The authority which God uses is to allow people to live righteously, in freedom and peace. He knows which principles work well in order to create such an atmosphere for living. Right at the creation of man God **gave** Adam and Eve the right to reign. Mankind was made to practice authority from God's perspective. In parts 7 and 8 we will look into this in further detail.

C) Responsibility



Gen 1:26-28, Gen 2:15

The third aspect of who you are in the kingdom is the result of given authority. In the Bible we see that not only does God give authority, but also responsibility. God links these two aspects together. Authority belongs together with responsibility. The intention is that authority is used to look after those things well that have been placed under your responsibility. Responsibility is taking care of and protecting. It is not in God's being to make something and let go of it, but rather it is his nature to also look after it. He wants to ensure that things go well, that **it** does the things for which it was made and that **it** remains protected. God speaks about authority regarding the family, work relationships, the church of Jesus and the government. In later studies we will look into this in greater depth.

D) Friendship

What did God find not good?



Gen 2:18-25

God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one. Especially in the NT we see how Jesus and the Father communicate. There is no hint of competition, no suspicion at all. Jesus knows the thoughts of His Father and finds it important to do everything that the Father asks of Him. God made mankind to have relationships just as He does. The man, Adam, was initially alone, but God took a rib from Adam's side and made woman out of it. Together man and woman are one, just like God. Together they reflect the 'shadow' of God. God made man and woman to love each other, to be one together and to share the most precious of things together.

E) Relationship with God


What does God do here?





Gen 2:19, 3:8


We see throughout the entire Bible that God wants to speak. There were people in the OT who could get very close to God. Adam and Eve were used to hearing God speak in the Garden of Eden. They could even hear him coming. Moses met God on Mount Horeb. Elijah had an encounter with God. So we were all made to have a love relationship with God.

EXERCISE:

 Discuss with your mentor how you are currently experiencing your relationship with God. Explain what you would like in your relationship with God.

  Read the following prayer and pray it yourself or together with your mentor, if you mean it.

“God, Father, thank You for making me, that You have a plan **for my life** and that You love me. I really want to know Your plan for my life. I want to open up my heart to this today. Restore what has been damaged and reveal what has been robbed or blinded, leading me to not see Your plan for my life properly. Thank You Lord for Your love, for making me worthy and for the destiny set before me. Thank You for friendships and for a relationship with You which is now possible. I open up my heart **to this** journey of discovery.”

 Read the letters to the Philippians and Ephesians during part 4. Write down what these two letters tell us about who we are in Christ.