

## What Makes You So Special?

Genesis 1:26-31, Mark 12:13-17

January 21, 2018

1. I am God's \_\_\_\_\_!

Genesis 1:27 ***So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.***

Psalms 100:3 says, ***Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.***

2. I am special because \_\_\_\_\_ loves me.

Psalms 8:3-4 ***When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them***

3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the unblemished image of God.

Colossians 1:15-19 ***15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ,,,. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.***

John 14:9 ***Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"***

4. I am being \_\_\_\_\_ as God's masterpiece.

Ephesians 2:10 ***For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.***

II Corinthians 3:18 ***And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.***

Romans 8:29 ***For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.***

I John 3:2 ***Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.***

5. I am created in the image of \_\_\_\_\_.

I John 4:16 ***And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.***

I John 4:19 ***We love because He first loved us.***

6. I was made for \_\_\_\_\_.

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### Intro A. What makes you so special?

- “What makes you so special? Usually the question is sarcastic and assumes the answer is “nothing.” It presupposes that you think there’s something special about you when there’s not. Nothing makes you special.
- Or, “Who do you think you are?”  
The implication is, “You’re nobody.”
- But I mean those questions very seriously.  
I start with the assumption that you are special. In fact, I insist on it, and I wonder if you know why?

### Intro B. Some say you aren’t special.

- You evolved at random.
- Bloodhound Gang “The Bad Touch” 1999 Jimmy Pop  
“You and me, baby, ain’t nothin’ but mammals,  
so let’s do it like they do on the Discovery Channel.”
- Profound insight!
- If you slithered out of the slime, how can we talk about right and wrong? Or meaning in life?
- If your Granny is a guppy, there is no meaning.
- “Nature” shows.

#### 1. (I am God’s masterpiece!)

Genesis 1:27 ***So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.***

Psalms 100:3 says, ***Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.***

- The first question in the *Shorter Catechism* asks about the meaning of life: "What is the chief end of man?" The answer is a' once simple and sublime. "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."
- We are designed to desire God. You are not a cosmic accident or a random result. You are a creation, a masterpiece, a work of art.
- As a matter of fact, you are God's self-portrait, for the Bible says that God created us in His own image. (Genesis 1:27) God created us for a purpose.

## #1 I am God's masterpiece!

- Imagine you could design the perfect mate: Height, weight, hair color, eye color, personality, IQ, income, interests, talents ...
- What do you think God did with you? He designed you in His image.

2. I am special because God loves me.

Psalm 8:3-4 **1 Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.**

**2 Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.**

**3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,**

**4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?<sup>[c]</sup>**

**5 You have made them<sup>[a]</sup> a little lower than the angels and crowned them<sup>[f]</sup> with glory and honor.**

**6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their<sup>[g]</sup> feet:**

**7 all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,**

**8 the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that**

*swim the paths of the seas.*

*9 Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

- “Is She Really Going Out with Him?”
- Head cheer-leader and a band geek.  
I know I married up.

*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,*

*4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them*

- Speed of Light = 186,282 mps.
- Around the world almost 8 times in a second.
- Lightyear = 9.5 trillion miles.
- Our galaxy (Milky Way) between 100k and 120k lightyears in diameter.
- There are billions of galaxies.
- It's not an evenly matched relationship!
- This is the God who loves you!

3. Jesus Christ is the unblemished image of God.

**Colossians 1:15-20** *15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth*

***or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.***

***John 14:9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”***

4. I am being restored as God’s masterpiece.
  - It’s true the image of God has been distorted, twisted.
  - The masterpiece is marred. We’ll talk about that in a few weeks.
  - And the sacrifice of Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit are at work in you, restoring the image.

■ God is restoring us in the image of God.

***Ephesians 2:10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.***

***II Corinthians 3:18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.***

***Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.***

***I John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.***

- That’s one way of understanding the GOSPEL message.
- By the way, other people are also God’s masterpieces.
  - Store clerks
  - Servers

- Neighbors
- Co-workers
- People you don't like.
- Other people are being restored in God's image.
- Treat them accordingly.

TR. If you are created in the image of God, you are created in the image of love.

5. I am created in the image of Love.

I John 4:16 ***And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.***

I John 4:19 ***We love because He first loved us.***

- ***Chris Anderson Ted Talks: The Official Guide to Public Speaking***

(Talks about how advanced computers are becoming and how IBM's Watson helps doctors with diagnoses etc.)

“At this point people start getting depressed. They begin asking questions such as, *In a world in which machines are rapidly getting super-smart, at any specialist knowledge task we can throw at them, what are humans even for?*”

“It's an important question And the answer is actually quite thrilling.

“What are humans for? Humans are for being more human than we've ever been.”

[Chris Anderson *Ted Talks: The Official Ted Guide to Public Speaking* C. 2016 by Chris Anderson First Mariner Books Edition 2017 ]

- You were made for love. That's what makes you so special.
- Dani Johnson says, “Desire always reveals design and destiny. An eagle was designed to soar, and it has the desire to soar. The eagle was perfectly designed for it to soar. It was not designed like a chicken. It doesn't have the desire to cluck around on the ground with a destiny of being deep-

fried. Its destiny is soaring.” Dani Johnson *First Steps to Wealth: A Revolution to Increase Your Income, Improve our Relationships and Expand Your Influence* C. 2011 Call to Freedom International loc 956 of 4551, (Chapter 2 under Law #5.)

■ You were made for love. That’s what makes you so special.

6. I was made for love.

### **You’re Nobody ‘til Somebody Loves You**

I was sitting in a restaurant called Elway’s in the Denver airport, enjoying the first burger I had had ever thought to describe as “exquisite” while I waited for my flight back to Orlando. The sound system softly played old Jazz standards that were popular in my youth. It was my parent’s music, but it conjured pleasant memories. One tune in particular caught my ear. It was Frank Sinatra singing, “You’re Nobody ‘til Somebody Loves You.”

I always thought it was a good song, but I never realized how profound those words were until I started writing *The Book of Love*. It’s really true, in the most existential sense. If we are created for a loving relationship with God, life is meaningless without love. If nobody loves you, then you’re nobody.

You may as well not even exist. And if you *feel* like nobody loves you, it may seem to you that life just isn’t worth the effort.

But I’m here to tell you that you are somebody. Your life has meaning and value because Somebody loves you. That Somebody is God. And if your life has value because Somebody loves you, and if that Somebody loves you with boundless love, it follows that you have infinite meaning and value.

Who do you think you are?

What makes you so special?

You're God's masterpiece!

God's self-portrait.

You are being perfectly restored in God's image.

And God is love.

You were made for love.

You were made for love.

That's what makes you so special.