

# Graced for Stewardship

by Tom Murray

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.” Genesis 1:26. How Gracious!

The inspired writer is referring to a most astounding conversation in Heaven. The “Us” in this passage is none-other-than the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Drawing upon what we know from scripture we can consider the full impact of this most holy and foundational conversation. Imagine being there...

The Father looks to the Holy Spirit and begins to speak. “Spirit, I love You, You bring so much inspiration and comfort... Thank you! Before this day ends we will bring forth the best of all creation, today we will create the human family. Let Us bless mankind with a desire to inspire and empower, comfort and encourage. Let us make man like you.”

Then the Father looks to His Son, “Oh Son! Thank you for loving this beautiful new world as deeply as I do. Thank you for Your commitment and all-out protection of Our new family. Son, I love You.

“Let us make mankind to be like You; courageous, selfless, loyal, fearless and protective, like You! Our new world may not always be ‘a perfect world’. Let us give him the brave and sacrificial heart of a Shepherd. Let Us make mankind in Your image!”

“Let them possess skills, talents and abilities above all other earthly created beings to reason, analyze,

discern, plan, minister, comfort, provide, build, store, share, protect, forgive, encourage, worship and bow down. Let them rule.

The Spirit and the Son are simply amazed by the wisdom, assurance, love, and grace of the eternal Father. How they love the Father! The Spirit speaks first. “Let Us make mankind in Your most holy image, having a measure of Your compassion, Your grace, Your patience, Your abounding love, Your truth, Your vast forgiveness!”

In deep reverence The Son adds “in Your image Father, the embodiment, source, explanation and definition of what love is.”

From the beginning mankind was crowned with glory and majesty to rule according to the perfect image and likeness of God. “Man was originally endowed with noble powers and a well-balanced mind. He was perfect in his being, and in harmony with God. His thoughts were pure, his aims holy. But through disobedience, his powers were perverted, and selfishness took the place of love. His nature became so weakened through transgression that it was impossible for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil” *Steps to Christ pg. 16.*

Through it all, the righteous desire of God for the holy purpose of mankind never changed. Amazing Grace! “...the purpose and plan of grace existed from all eternity. Before the foundation of the world it was according to the determinate counsel of God that man should be created, endowed with power to do the divine will. But the defection of man, with all its consequences, was not hidden from the Omnipotent,

and yet it did not deter Him from carrying out His eternal purpose; for the Lord would establish His throne in righteousness. God knows the end from the beginning. Therefore redemption was not an afterthought but an eternal purpose...” *God’s Amazing Grace pg. 129.*

That fallen man should be redeemed into the eternal purpose of God is testimony to His perfect will and His amazing grace! By His grace and for His glory, fallen humanity may “do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God” Micah 6:8. Christ our Savior has lifted us out of the slimy pit to live a life worthy of his high calling, to live in recognition of His salvation with humility. We have been graced to bear with one another in love. Ephesians 4:1-2.

The Father’s eternal purpose for mankind advances in righteousness. By grace, the redeemed have been restored and reestablished as guardians, protectors and sustainers of all that is precious to our Lord... amazingly, the redeemed have been graced for Stewardship.

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