

**6 August 2017 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost.**

**Readings:** Genesis 1:24-31; Romans 9:1–5; Matthew 19:1-12.

**Theme:** *Image bearers* – **Genesis 1:27**, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him.”



## **I. The ORIGINAL (The Trinity as Creator and Model).**

**Genesis 1:26**, “Then **God** said, “Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness.” The original is a plurality. Father – Son – Holy Spirit. **Cf. Genesis 1:1-2**, “In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and **the Spirit of God** was hovering over the waters.” **Cf. Proverbs 8:22, 30-31**, “The Lord possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old... **I was beside him, like a master workman**, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.” Unity in plurality; co-equal, yet distinct.



## **II. God's REPLICA/MASTERPIECE.**

**Genesis 2:7**, “Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**, and the man became a living being.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:23**, “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole **spirit, soul and body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Genesis 1:26**, “male and female he created them.”



## **III. God's MASTER PLAN or PURPOSE.**

### **A. RELATIONSHIP.**

**Genesis 2:18**, “The Lord God said, “**It is not good for the man to be alone.** I will make a helper suitable for him.””

**Genesis 2:24**, “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and **they become one flesh.**”

**John 17:22-23**, “I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to **complete unity.**”

## **B. STEWARDSHIP.**

**Genesis 1:27-28**, “God created human beings; he created them godlike, Reflecting God’s nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: ‘**Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible** for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for **every living thing** that moves on the face of Earth.’”

Relationship and stewardship find their fulfilment in family or community. We were not created to be alone. Children form the third part of the Trinity, be they physical, but even more so, spiritual.



**CONCLUSION:** Everyone you meet, including yourself, has: **Inherent DIGNITY.** “High rank or position.” The crown of creation.

**Inherent WORTH.** “High value.” **Hebrews 2:7-8**, “What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honour and put everything under their feet.”

**Inherent GOODNESS (BEAUTY).** “High excellence.” Substitution for ‘God’ – “*Oh goodness!*” **Genesis 1:31**, “God looked over everything he had made; it was **so good, so very good!**”

May we, as we look over everything God has made, respond, “It is so good, so very good!”, and work to the end that it glorifies the Lord. 😊