

## Chapter 1

### MAN

1. Creation of man
  - 1.1 From Genesis 1:26 and 2:18, 21, 23, it is clear that God did not plan to make only one human. The words, “*Let Us make men ...*” –plural– is evidence thereof.
  - 1.2 God created man (Gen. 2:7). The theory of Evolution, as expounded by Darwin, is rejected.
  - 1.3 God created man in His image (read Gen. 1:26-27). Only man possesses true knowledge, true righteousness and true holiness (read Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 3).
  - 1.4 Man bears the image of God in two respects:
    - 1.4.1 The image of God in broader sense. These are the things which distinguishes us from the rest of creation, namely: reasonableness, personality, abilities, gifts, *etc.* (*cf.* Prov. 4:23).
    - 1.4.2 The image of God in stricter sense (*cf.* Lev. 19:2; Deut. 6:5; Matt. 5:48, 22:37; Eph. 5:1; 1 Pet. 1:15-16).
      - True knowledge:
        - To know God and His Word.
      - True righteousness:
        - The ability to distinguish between what God does want and what He does not want.
        - The ability to distinguish between right and wrong.
        - The ability to distinguish between obedience and disobedience
      - True holiness:
        - The ability to truly become holy.  
Neither plant nor animal possesses the holiness required to live and dwell with God, in the Hereafter, and to worship Him in perfect holiness. Only man does — because God grants it to him.
  - 1.5 Man is created to be immortal.  
The fact that we now die, is because God punished us with the penalty of death: “for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return” (Gen. 3:19).
  - 1.6 We know that the first human was a man.
    - The Lord took dust and made the man’s body.
    - Immediately a very noticeable difference between this creature and the rest of creation is apparent:
      - When all the other things were created, God said but a word, and the matter was at once complete. Things such as ground, plants, light and animals were at once there!
      - Man’s existence has a different beginning: At first God says that He will make people, He then takes of the soil that He created and makes a man’s body thereof.
  - 1.7 Something else happens which further distinguishes man from the rest of creation: God blows breath –which is life– into man.  
God creates the life of man completely differently to that of the animals.
  - 1.8 God created man with the goal to honour Him (BC, Art, 12-17).
  - 1.9 God created man in two genders: man and woman.
  - 1.10 Initially there was only one human and he was created with a gender — male. Thereafter

God executes the rest of His plan to make people. When Adam sleeps, the Lord takes of his rib/side and makes the second human.

- 1.11 The difference in the material used, is noticeably vast. In Adam's case "raw material" and in the case of Eve "refined material" is used. In this alone, the woman is already the rounding-off of God's creation — the most delicate and beautiful created by God's hand.
- 1.12 God brings this woman to the man and therewith the first marriage takes place. NB: It is not a contract, it's a creational ordinance.
- 1.13 In this marriage the man must live as one who is first, ought to live. He will have to live before God in such a manner that it is evident from his conduct towards his wife and his children, that God created him to rule.  
NB: not bombastic and foolishly, nor violently and dishonestly. God's honour must shine forth from his conduct!
- 1.14 The woman will also have to mirror the refinement and delicacy which God created into her. She cannot be married as if she were disconnected from that first day when God created her, and brought her to Adam. Also in her household and in her dealings with her husband God's honour and glory must be proclaimed by this tenderness and refinement which she possesses.
- 1.15 Thus, there are essential differences between the two people – and yet both bear God's image:
- Adam is created first — Eve second
  - Adam is made of dust — Eve of Adam's body
  - Adam is the head — Eve is his help
  - Adam is male — Eve is female
- 1.16 Different marriages are known to us:
- Monogamy — where, like Adam and Eve, one man and one woman are married to each other.
  - Polygamy — where one man has more than one woman.
  - Matriarchal-marriage — where the woman is the head the household.
  - Group-marriage — the type of marriage that existed amongst the "hippies" (of the fifties- and sixties), where everyone (in the group) is married to everyone else (in the group).
- 1.17 Which one of these marriages is instituted by God? Did God bind man to only one type of marriage?  
The Lord bound us to one type of marriage only, namely monogamy, where one man is bound to one woman. This is proven by the fact that God makes one man and again makes only one woman for him. Herewith God makes a definitive institution: henceforth all marriages must correspond with this one. To such a wedded pair, the Lord gives the command to be fruitful and to multiply until the earth is filled.

## 2. Symbols

Marriage is also symbolic of God's communication and relationship with us. Man is the head of the house and therein he is a symbol of God. Woman is subservient and therein she is a symbol of the church.

This intimate relationship between God and his church (the elect) is called the covenantal

relationship.

### 3. Instruction towards God

The first instruction to the newly wed couple is found in Genesis 1:26 — even before their creation. Humans are created in God's image — in their existence, they must therefore mirror God's image and similitude.

Also the second instruction is found in Genesis 1:26. The Lord decides that the people that He will be making are to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of heaven and the livestock and over the whole earth and over all the animals which creep upon the earth. The instruction concerns both man and woman, because it concerns the humans who God made. The following instruction is found in Genesis 1:28: "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it ..." two instructions are here distinguished:

- The command to be fruitful
- Man must multiply, but not without limit. The limit is clear: until the earth is filled. The command is thus that the people must procreate and bring forth more who bear God's image.
- The command to be stewards  
The second instruction is to exercise God's royal image: rule/govern creation.

### 4. Instruction towards each other

In Ephesians 5:22 *ff.* the Lord arranges the marital relationship between husband and wife.

- To women the instruction is given to be obedient to their own husbands. NB verse 22b: "... as unto the Lord". The woman subjects herself to her husband's leadership as the church is subject to the Lord. The subjection does not mean slavishness, but unity.
- The husband must love his own wife. This is not sensual or lustful love. It is the kind of love that God has for His church. NB: that Christ has for His congregation. Christ loved His church so much, that He died for it.