



“The first man [was] from out of Earth, made of dust (earthly-minded); the second Man [is] the Lord from out of Heaven. Now those who are made of the dust are like him who was first made of the dust (earthly-minded); and as is [the Man] from Heaven, so also [are those] who are of Heaven (heavenly-minded). And just as we have borne the image [of the man] of dust, so shall we and so let us also bear the image [of the Man] of Heaven.” - 1 Corinthians 15:47-49 (AMPC)

Who am I? What am I? Why do I exist?

Each person is a living being—a human. Each of us is a child of Adam.

You are either a descendant of Adam only, or a descendant of Adam and Jesus.

As a descendant of Jesus (spiritual descendant), you belong to God’s family.

Since in our humanity, we resemble Adam (or Eve); likewise, in our spirit, we resemble Jesus.

“Likeness and image” define how we relate to God.

Image is a goal, thought, or purpose of God.

Likeness is a picture, form, pattern.

You are either Adam or Jesus—only two people on Earth.

We are physical, and we are spiritual. The physical came first and then the spiritual.

Why the need for this mysterious process? We pass from life to life. We go from flesh body to spiritual body.

God wanted man to have the power of choice—free moral agency.

Only two possibilities – live only as a creature of Adam or live as a creature of Adam and Jesus.

“For you have acquired new creation life which is continually being renewed into the likeness of the One who created you; giving you the full revelation of God.” - Colossians 3:10 (TPT)

The number one reason for your life – to have now, and in Heaven, a personal intimate relationship with God.

His plan for you right now is the fullest possible expression of His divine nature within and through you, to conform you here on Earth into His image – the image of your heavenly life.

As a Christian, you have a dual nature on Earth: Adam and Jesus, human and spiritual, earthly and heavenly.

“The first man was from the dust of the Earth; the second Man is the Lord Jehovah, from the realm of Heaven. The first one, made from dust, has a race of people just like him, who are also made from dust. The One sent from Heaven has a race of heavenly people who are just like Him. Once we carried the likeness of the man of dust, but now let us carry the likeness of the Man of Heaven.” - 1 Corinthians 15:47-49 (TPT)

Just as Adam communicated physical life to us, Jesus is now communicating to us a life which is at once holy and eternal – a spiritual or new or resurrected body.

Death becomes the disrobing and robing room for our new spiritual body.

We are stripped of this decaying, perishable part of us and clothed with a new resurrected, spiritual body at the coming of Jesus for His church.

Death destroys flesh and blood and enables us to put on immortality.

The last enemy – death – threatens to crush and annihilate all life. But, it actually serves to break the shell and allow our spirit/soul to be set free from the limitations imposed by the flesh.

"...Death is swallowed up by a triumphant victory!" - I Corinthians 15:54 (TPT)

Our lower, animal nature is destroyed, and our inner spiritual nature is given full birth.

Only that which is purely spiritual in us can qualify us for our new spiritual body. This is the permanent incentive of our Christian faith.

On Earth, we are spirit-beings having a human experience.

In our new spiritual being, we will enjoy a larger, richer, fuller, more satisfying life. The spiritual life is endlessly enlarging and wondrously exciting.

Death is a split-second transition into our real birth of a powerful, eternal, real life of glory and ecstasy.

There in Heaven, we are glorified humans. We will experience the process in Heaven. We will go from glory to glory. God will expand our knowledge of Him and His universe.

"Throughout the coming ages we will be the visible display of the infinite, limitless riches of His grace and kindness, which was showered upon us in Jesus Christ." - Ephesians 2:7 (TPT)

Along with His angels, we will continue to grow in our understanding.

"...the gospel containing wonderful mysteries that even the angels long to get a glimpse of." - I Peter 1:12 (TPT)

Heaven will not reduce our mental capacities but sharpen them.

"For now we see but a faint reflection of riddles and mysteries as though reflected in a mirror, but one day we will see face-to-face. My understanding is incomplete now, but one day I will understand everything, just as everything about me has been fully understood." - I Corinthians 13:12 (TPT)

What we learn and experience of God in our earthly, human life of His mercy, grace, love and justice are not lost.

We are not different people, but the same people marvelously transformed and transcended into Heaven. Who we are here, and what we are have external significance as our true God-selves.

Discussion Questions:

- You are either a descendant of Adam only or you are a descendant of Adam and _____.
- "Image" is a goal, _____, purpose of God. "Likeness" is a picture, form, _____.
- The number one reason for your life - to have now and in Heaven a personal, intimate _____ with Jesus.
- As a Christian, you have a dual _____ on Earth - Adam and Jesus, human and spiritual, Earthly and Heavenly.
- Death becomes the disrobing and robing room for our new spiritual _____.
- Our lower, animal nature is destroyed and our inner _____ nature is given full birth.
- On Earth we are spirit beings having a _____ experience.
- Along with angels we will continue to grow in our _____.

Notes:
