

## **Liv'n in God's Presence: What God wants**

God's desire is to spend time with us but God doesn't want us to be forced into loving him god wants us to want to love him

I have found there are 2 kinds of people:

- There's bottom line people and beat around the Bush people. Beth is a bottom-line person, she's very direct
- I'm a beat around the Bush person. I like to draw people out into a conversation
- If you don't know if you're a bottom-line person or not, you're definitely a beat around the Bush person. Bottom line person they know who they are.
- If you're not a bottom line person you're married to one

One thing Beth is taught me, every so often, it's good to look for the bottom line. **The reason I bring this up is today we have to ask what's God's bottom line? What is the bottom line of The Bible?**

I think the best way to understand God's desire or bottom line is to go to the Genesis 1 & 2. **Here are 3 points about God's presence:**

### **1) God made us, so He could love us. God wants us!**

If you look at the beginning of the book of Genesis, whenever God made or created something, God spoke to:

- **Whatever it came from**
- **What it was to be sustained by**
- **And what it would return to.**

**Now, I am talking about creating and making, Let me explain the difference between the two:**

Some people don't understand when you look at the Bible, **you'll see God: created some things and made some things**

- In the Bible, when you create something, you form it out of nothing
- When you make something, you make it from out of something else.

Let me give you some examples of what I am talking about.

**Look at when God-created in Genesis 1.** God said, “Let there be light... light come forth;” and God said, “Let dry ground appear,” He was calling something out of nothing – God was creating!

**Then, look at how trees came** about in verse 11. God said, “Let the land produce trees.”

- Why? Because God wanted to have trees come from that which created it, sustained it, and from which it would return to... the Earth

You are going to find out in a minute, just why this is so extremely important

- **Now, look at verse 20 where God said “Let the waters teem with living creatures.”** Why? Because fish are sustained by water
- In Genesis 1:24, god said, “Let the land produce living creatures.” Creatures that were made by the earth, sustained by the Earth and will return to the Earth

**Why am I making such a big deal out of this**

Let me emphasize, when God spoke, when he wanted something to come from sustained by and return to... that of which it was made

**Why is that such a big deal... Please listen carefully... because when God wanted us.... He spoke to himself.**

Remember what God was making what he wanted, It was to be made by sustained by and return to that from which it was made

**Are you following me? This is better than you're acting 😊**

Then in verse 26 God said, “Let us make mankind in our image!”

My point, “We came from something that nothing else came from! We were:

- Made from God
- Sustained by God
- And will return to God... we were made in the image of God

Now, you could say, “Wait a minute! The Bible says man was made from dirt. In fact, the Hebrew translation of Adam is “Red squishy clay.” *Doesn't that mean we were made from dirt, sustained by dirt, and will return to dirt?*”

No! God-made my body from the Earth, So that means my body came from dirt is sustained by dirt and will return to dirt... **But my spirit came from God is sustained by God and will return to God.**

See my body sustained by dirt it sustained by fruit and vegetables and chocolate and coffee... It came from dirt.

So plants were created from dirt, they are sustained by dirt, and they will go back to dirt. Does that make sense? Now what would happen if a plant would want to separate from the Earth and say, “I want to live my way, I want to sustain myself without the dirt...”

**What would happen? It would die!**

- Starting with Adam and Eve, human beings... We say to God, “*I want to live life my own way, I want to live on my own.*” God said, “*If you do, then you're going to die.*”

But Adam and Eve, they didn't die right away did they! WHY? Because their body came from the Earth, was sustained by Earth and would return to the earth. But death entered and humans began to die, and if you look at scripture - the length of people's physical lifetime grew shorter and shorter.

**But what happened... it was our spirit that died.** I had a lot of mindful, thinking Christians ask, “Why didn't Adam and Eve die? Didn't God said if you eat the fruit you are going to die?” But they did die - they died spiritually.

- If you don't believe me, take a look at Ephesians 2:1, “*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins...*”

- And in John 10:10, we focus on the 2nd half of the verse where Jesus said, "I've come that they may have life and life abundantly." But in the 1st part, Jesus says, "*I've come that they may have life.*"

My point is, the Bible explains, "*We didn't even have life until Jesus Christ came. You could say we were spiritual zombies the walking dead.*"

**My point, God-made us... from Him!**

## **2. God made us in His Image, so Adam's desire for a companion demonstrates God's desire for a companion.**

Do you know that God has a desire! What is it? Think about, God made humans, just like Him!

Remember, this is before the fall, before Adam and Eve decided to go out on their own. At this time, Adam didn't have any impure thoughts or desires. God made Adam, a replica of himself, **the one that is the image of God, the one just like God, has a desire.**

Look at Genesis 2:20, "*So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.*" Look carefully at what God saying here - for Adam, there was no helper found... no one was comparable... which is a root of companion. There was no comparable or compatible companion for Adam.

### **• Why would The Bible say that?**

The scripture is saying, Adam named the animals, but... he couldn't find one that could be a companion. **Why would the Bible say that?**

It's possible, something like this happened: Adam, who was made in the image of God, and to this point has not sinned, goes to God and says something like this, "*God I love everything you gave me, I love the garden, but I have this desire and I just don't know how to describe it.*"

Like it's 9 o'clock at night, your hungry, but don't know what you're hungry for. So you go to the fridge, stand there with the doors open and you just don't know what you want. You want something you just don't know what.

In the same way, Adam enjoys walking and talking with God. But he is lonely, he wants something, just doesn't know what he wants.

So God says, " I want you to name the animals, and while you're doing that, see if you like any of them.

**And while Adam is naming animals, He falls asleep.  
Do remember what happens while he's asleep?**

- God takes a rib out. Adam is naming animals and looking for a companion. When he wakes up there's this new critter in the garden.
- Adam looks at this new animal in the garden and says **woah man!** Like the 1st time I saw Beth when she walked into the restaurant for the 1st time I looked her and said "Whoa man!"
- According to today's scripture, **that's what women means - from out of a man.** The bone didn't come from the head, the woman isn't over the man. The bone isn't from the foot, so the man isn't over the woman. The bone is from the rib, equal to man. Not less or greater than.

Think about it women means out of man, man are out of God. Both men and women are out of God, they both come from God!

- **How did God know, that the desire of Adam's heart, was to have a bride? Remember Adam was made in the image of God, that means God had the same desire.** This was before the fall, Adams desire was pure. God knew that Adam wanted a bride.

- God knew, because he is the same desire.

Think of it this way, God-created you in his image. That means that God created you with a will, because God has a will.

- You want someone to choose to love you. Not that they have to love you. God could have created us as robots so that we had to love him, But he did not. **That would not have been love.**
- You can't force someone to love you. Love is a choice, God-made me from him, So I would be sustained by God, And go back to God, then God-made me in his image. So I have the same desire as God.

**So we know what God's desire is,  
to have a bride as Adam wanted a bride.**

### **3. God-made me to love him and be in His presence.**

It's my choice, but God-made me to love him. We're talking about living in God's presence, and the best way to live in God's presence is the worship. We talked about that last week the Best way to enter God's presence is to worship.

Have you ever thought about it this way, Worship is expressing love. When you think God for sending his son, When you tell God that you love him.

It's similar to a man telling his wife, I love you there's no one else that I'd rather be with than you, I would die so that you could live. That is expressing love and that is worship

### **Have you ever thought of it that way**

And one thing you have to understand about God, is that whenever you give to God he gets back. That's God's nature.

- If you say to God "I love you," God will say "I love you too."
- There's no one I'd rather be with than you, God will say there's no one I'd rather be with than you,
- I die so that you could live, And God would say I did

God's greatest desire is you! That's God's greatest desire that you choose to want to be in his presence to be with him to love him

There is a phrase that's continually repeated throughout the whole Bible, It starts in the book of Exodus 6:7, I will take you as my people and I will be your God. There are 14 versus that says the same thing.

It finishes in Revelation 21:2-3, " I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."

Do you get it? God wants you to be his people. He wants to be your God.

Let's go back to the beginning, you know what happened. Humanity decided that they wanted to do it on their own. They wanted to live life the own way.

And before we talked about how God-created us to come from him to be sustained by him and to return to him. And if you really love a person you die to keep that person alive.

That's what Jesus did for us he died so that we could live.