

LWML Texas District

August 22

Meditation

Created

What is it about an image that is so captivating? Whether it is an artist's rendering or a photograph, images capture a moment in time and often express what words cannot say. It has long been debated as to what it means that we were "created in God's own image" (Genesis 1:27).

Looking at the passage, it has a double stated phrase, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." It could almost be said it has a triple repeated phrase. Any time a phrase is repeated in Scripture, it is meant to show its importance. What would a triple stated phrase mean? Could there be a connection between the triple phrase and the Trinity? So, what does it mean to be created in God's image?

God created man out of the dust of the ground. God didn't just speak him into existence. He physically created him out of the dust. God also breathed His breath into man. What an honor for the creator of the universe to fill our lungs with His own spirit and breath. He put the man into the garden (Gen 2:8). He gave man work to do, a purpose.

Many people do not have green thumbs, probably part of the curse after the fall. Gardening, much like cooking or baking, takes a bit of knowledge, skill and talent, practice if you will. Yet, gardening also requires things beyond our control: sunlight, temperature, rainfall, soil conditions, and avoidance of bugs.

We attempt to control these things by grafting plants and genetically altering them to be more resistant to heat or bugs or stronger roots or drought resistant. We tend the weeds, use fertilizer, add elements to the soil, follow strict planting schedules, and water faithfully. Yet, life is ultimately under God's control.

When God gave Adam work to do in the garden, tend it and subdue it, He gave him a vocation. As defined in Luther's Small Catechism "vocation is a person's calling or position in life; our many vocations include our work or careers as well as our relationships with God and others (redeemed child of God, son, daughter, father, husband, wife and so on.)" What is your vocation? Where are you uniquely called?

Recently, I was contacted about a potential new job. I was deeply honored by the consideration. However, I considered my current work, and thought, "this is exactly where I am supposed to be. I am doing what God has called me to and equipped me to do." I politely declined and felt peace and renewed energy towards my current vocation. I did not get to pick my giftedness. It was beyond my control.

God has given each of us gifts to benefit His kingdom and His creation. When we are using those gifts to His glory, it is easy to see the Creator shining through His creation.