

3. Because of our love for the Lord, how are we to treat our spouses and others? ~ *31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:31-32*
4. Why does Christ have the right to have supreme control over creation and His church? What comfort should it bring to know that Christ is in control? ~ *16 For by Him (Christ) all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church. Colossians 1:16-18*
5. Christ offers us grace or undeserved kindness, even though we do not deserve it. ~ *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - 6 and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-7*
(Read also: *Ephesians 2:1-10*)
 - a. According to these verses, why are we dead without Christ?
 - b. What does it mean to be made alive?
 - c. Describe our reward?
6. Remaining faithful or holding fast will not be easy. What is Christ's promise? ~ *Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10*

Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:26-27

God creates man

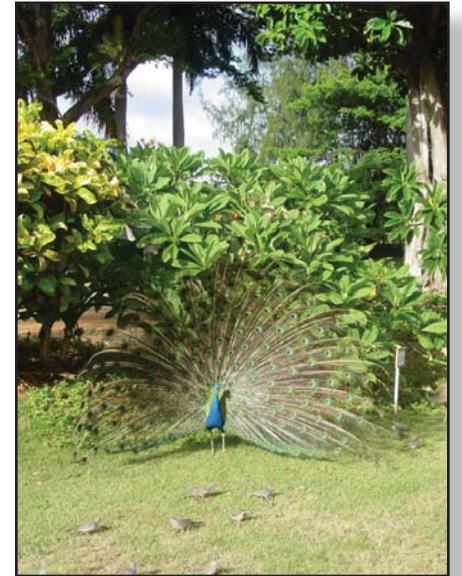
26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 2:7-25 - Adam and Eve

7 The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

8 Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there He put the man He had formed. 9 And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground - trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.



So God created man in His own image. Genesis 1:27

11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man.

23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

A Closer Look: Christ the Head of the Church

Before sin entered the world, man and woman lived in perfect union with God. Just as man is head of the family, so Christ is the head of the church. God created us, sustains us and offers us eternal life if we hold fast to Him.

1. Read about the creation of woman.
 - a. Why did God create woman for man? ~ *(Read Genesis 2:18 from this study.)*
 - b. How was she created? ~ *(Read Genesis 2:21 from this study.)*
 - c. Tell about their relationship. ~ *(Read Genesis 2:23-24 from this study.)*
(Read also: Matthew 19:3-6, Mark 10:2-9)
2. As you read these verses, reflect on Christ as the head of the church. Note how Paul in Ephesians compares this love to marriage. ~ *22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, 27 so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."* Ephesians 5:22-23, 25-33 *(Read also: Ephesians 5:1)*
 - a. Who is "the church?" *(All believers)*
 - b. How did Christ show His great love for His church?
 - c. What is Christ's desire for us?
 - d. Tell of the love a woman should have for her husband. What does it mean to submit? Tell of the love a man should have for his wife.