Loving God: The Creator

Thesis: When we appreciate the truth of God’s character as The Creator, it will drive us to love Him better in our daily walk.

Text: Genesis 1:1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Intro:

During the month of January, we will intentionally focus on drawing closer to God through times of prayer, Bible study, and fasting. As a part of that initiative, Pastor Steve has asked me to introduce the next sermon series entitled Loving God. Over the next month, we want to lean into our relationship with God. As we set our focus towards loving God in a deeper way this year, we will first seek to understand more about the character of God. Over the next several weeks, we’ll be studying different attributes or characteristics of God. In the day-to-day struggle of life, I fear we lose sight of the God we seek to fully love. So, to add that spark back to our relationship, let’s take a closer look at the God we serve. This week, I get to focus on God the Creator. God is the creator. What does this mean for us?

Point 1- God Is the Creator

A) Genesis 1:1 tells us a lot about God. We see first that He was in existence before anything else. He is the alpha, the beginning. This is God’s introduction of Himself to us. And how does He introduce Himself? First, He calls out when He was.

The fact that God existed prior to our understanding of time is a differentiating factor between our belief system and other ancient religions. Whereas many religions take their beginning out of something that was already there, Christianity puts creation into finite bounds which illustrates that God had a specific plan for creation. Because God existed before creation, He is not bound or limited by its precepts. He supersedes creation. He rises above the construct. In effect, all that we know and can
study and can learn tells us about the finite bounds of the creation, but the creator is limitless because He hails from outside of that box.

Here’s the point. God is bigger than you and I can understand. You and I live in pretty big aquarium, but God knows a world where the aquarium doesn’t even exist. He existed in a space that we can’t even conceive. Since He was before creation, He is superior to all of creation.

B) Having established when He was, God now introduces Himself as the Creator. In the beginning, God created. Make no mistake, everything we know to be real was conceived, designed, and constructed by the Almighty God we serve.

Because there was none before God, we can attribute all matter created to His credit. Genesis tells us that He created the heavens and the earth. This statement wraps up all in existence, including every bit of matter.

Or here’s another way to think about it. A group of scientists felt so proud because through years of meticulous research and development, they created life in a test tube. They had dissected the chemical compounds of mankind and determined exactly what man was made of. Having achieved the crown jewel of their lives work, they convened a meeting with God to inform Him of their great accomplishment and that mankind no longer needed His involvement. God, not easily impressed, deflated the whole group when he informed them that they needed to start with their own dirt.

God is the source of all we know on this planet. He alone conceived the wild and crazy things we see in nature. Let me take a minute here to encourage you to get out in nature more and spend time observing His great creation. Some of the most powerful revelations God has impressed on me were not in a church building. They were revealed sitting in my office while I stared out the window at lizards and birds. While watching a lizard change colors to match a handrail, God impressed on me just how complicated of a design that is. Consider that there was no prototype. He both conceived the adaptation and created the adaptation. When we consider creation, we see the picture of the Creator, and we should be in awe of His great wisdom.
Deeper than an amazement at the creative prowess of our God, there’s an even deeper truth revealed in Genesis 1:1. Because God is the source of all creation, humanity and nature are not self-existent. We owe our existence and continuance to God. In a culture that attests to independence and being self-made, it is the believer who truly understands that which really underpins our existence. We live and die, prosper or parish at the hand of the Creator. Because he was first and the Creator, we need to understand that we are reliant on Him as our source.

Point 2- God Created Us

A) Having spoken all other matter into existence, God turned his attention to form man out of the dust of the ground. Mankind is different than all of creation. We were formed by the hand of God and given the breath of life.

You and I are a representation of God, the creator. That’s right! You may sit in here today feeling insignificant. You may have had a rough 2021, and your 2022 may not be off to the best start either. But let me tell you something right off the bat. You were created in the very image of God. In Genesis 1:26-27, the Bible plainly tells us that we were made different. While we were given responsibility to care for nature (including animals and plants), it is important to note that your dog does not bear the image of God. You do. Now, I’m not here to hurt your feelings about your special fur baby. I’m not here to be that guy. However, I am here to make sure you understand that as much love as you dote upon that little creature, you need to make sure that in your mind you never loose sight that God made man in His image, and therefore there is something more special about humanity than any other form of creation.

B) Because mankind is made in the image of God, we are capable of responding to and having relationship with God. This privilege is reserved for mankind.

Now this is where the rubber starts to meet the road. God has introduced Himself to us at the beginning of the Bible as the source and creator that predates any entity, period. And now, He has revealed that we were made differently than any other segment of His creation. We were made in His
image. Remember that the title of this sermon series is Loving God. So, this is the hook. If all that we’ve read about God is true, then you and I have a job to do here on this earth, and its why our pastor is walking us down the path focusing on tightening up our relationship with God. Spoiler alert! The purpose behind God’s design in mankind was to have a species with which to fellowship. As He rules the world (both seen and unseen) He gave us our own little kingdom to rule and reign over. He put within us the capacity to understand Him, relate to Him, and ultimately to love Him. He desires for us to commune with Him. Let that sink in. God, the great creator specifically designed you to fellowship with Him.

Have you ever considered why we want children?

Point 3 – God Redeemed Creation

A.) The story of creation reveals to us God’s desire to have an intimate relationship with mankind. We were created with specific capacities for relating to an all-powerful deity, but the story of creation also includes the fall of man (Genesis 3:1-7).

I would love to say that if I were Adam, I’d have made it longer before I fell. However, I’m not so bold as to make such a baseless assertion. Even with the benefit of thousands of years of scriptural history, it still takes little more than a pebble to trip up these big feet on my walk with the Lord. Unfortunately, we can’t wrap up the story of creation without also acknowledging that mankind failed our purpose, and it didn’t take long to reach the bottom of broken. In Genesis chapter three, we read the account of the serpent enticing Eve to disobey God, and ultimately Adam following suit. This changed everything. Adam and Eve immediately knew sin. They fell under the curse. Their sin made them hide from God and dynamically changed their relationship with Him. That special plan God orchestrated for communion had now been broken.

B.) God desires the relationship He created mankind for so much that when mankind failed three chapters in, He promised a path to redemption through the Savior He would send, Jesus (Genesis 3:15).
We see in this first failure of mankind, the heart of a loving God. In their failure, God made a sacrifice to cover their sins and promised a redeemer that would eventually wipe away the sin of man. Make no mistake, the great Creator that made you and this world in which we live wants to spend time with you. You’re not a by-product of His efforts in the six days of creation. Nope, you were strategically considered and constructed. God still desires communion with you.

**Conclusion:**

As we journey through these next several weeks, I trust you’re going to get some practical “How-Tos” in developing your relationship with God as we drive deeper towards loving God. But I hope today has ignited a spark in your desire to figure out how to fix your relationship with God. As I went back through the creation story preparing for this, I was impressed with three thoughts, and we’ve practically covered them today. But here they are in rapid fire.

1.) God’s existence as Creator at the beginning means He is the source of everything we know of today.

2.) God created us for the expressed purpose to be relational to Him. He even sowed into us the necessary traits to be able to relate to one so magnificent as Himself.

3.) When mankind botched our role, He made a way to redeem and restore the relational component of who we are.

Understanding these three thoughts about God the Creator inspires me to build more time into my busy life to build relationship with Him.