

# Your Questions: Part Two

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## Introduction.

- A. In Matthew 20:26-28, Jesus said, "Whoever desires to be great among you, let him be your servant, and whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." We recognize that this passage defines the humility that disciples of Christ are to have, and especially those who assume prominent roles. This ideal of service is why I'm up here tonight. I am your servant. It is my responsibility to help you and as many others as possible to get to heaven. I'm here for you, not you for me.
- B. As part of my efforts to help here, something we do here is to have a box for questions you would like me to answer in a sermon. I am always happy to preach on any topic that a member of this congregation may have questions about, and recently, one of our young people put a number of questions in the box. I believe that these are important questions, and they deserve to be answered. Let's turn our attention this evening, then to answering a second round of your questions.

## I. How Was God Created?

- A. The first of these questions asks, "How was God created?" Now, this is a very natural question to ask, because in the physical world, just about everything we see came from something else. People come from their parents, houses come from the people who build them, and so on. However, what's true of things in the natural world is not true of God. Look at what Psalm 90:1-2 reveals about God. Moses says that God exists from everlasting to everlasting. Unlike anything else known to human experience, God is eternal in both directions. He always has been; He always will be. God is the Creator, but He Himself is uncreated.
- B. Just like the Father, Scripture also tells us that Jesus is an eternal and uncreated being. Some denominations that teach that Jesus was just a created angel, but the Bible tells a different story. Consider the words of John 1:1-3. This passage points out a number of important characteristics of Jesus. First, it tells us that He shares in the deity of God the Father. It tells us that He was in the beginning with God. Finally, though, and perhaps most importantly, it tells us that every created thing came into being through Jesus. Now, if Jesus shared in the creation of every created thing, then He Himself cannot have been created. Otherwise, that would put Jesus in the odd position of having created Himself. Like the Father, Jesus is eternal and uncreated.
- C. Similarly, it is also true that the Holy Spirit is an uncreated being. We see this when we look at Genesis 1:1-2, which tells us that in the very beginning, the Spirit of God was right there with God. Just like the Father and the Son, the Spirit has always been and will always be. That's one of the attributes of deity. In any of His persons, God is the Creator, and has not been created.

## II. Why Are We Here?

- A. The next question on our list is the ever-popular "Why are we here?" This is maybe the biggest question of human existence. Scientists and philosophers have been hashing various aspects of this one out for millennia. We have an advantage over scientists and philosophers, though, in that we can get the truth straight from the source. The Bible tells us all we need to know about why we're here. We see our origin described in Genesis 1:26-27. We aren't here because one group of monkeys decided to get real smart one day. We aren't here as a freak of nature or a cosmic accident. We're here because God created us to be the crown jewel of His creation. He formed us from the dust of the ground, and breathed into our nostrils the breath of life, so that we alone, of all the marvels of the universe, are created in the image and likeness of God.
- B. Now, of course, the answer to that question only leads us on to another question. If we're so special, why did God go to all this trouble to make us so special? Why did He create us as He did? This question is more difficult than the first one, but it also has a Scriptural answer, which we see in Ephesians 1:3-6. This passage tells us a number of important things. First, it shows plainly that God's plan of salvation wasn't the result of a quick fix by God for an unanticipated problem of sin. Instead, God knew before the foundation of the world that man would sin, and before the foundation of the world, He chose to set up His church through the saving agency of Jesus Christ. God wants every human being to become a part of His church, because it is only through the church that mankind's reason for existence can be achieved.
- C. We see the first part of this reason defined in the latter half of Ephesians 1:4, which tells us that God chose us so that we could be holy and without blame before Him in love. In truth, this isn't so very different from the way that we think. There are a lot of new parents in this congregation now, and it's fair to say that one of the primary things that drives parents to have children is love. We make that decision because we desire to love and be loved. According to this verse, that same impulse also motivated God to create us. He wanted a people that, out of love for Him, would choose to be righteous through Jesus Christ.

- D. However, that's not all. We also learn from the first part of Ephesians 1:6 that all of this would result in the praise of the glory of His grace. Basically, God devised creation and His plan of salvation because it was the very best way to show His glory. He is glorified by the love and devotion of Christians, but He is also glorified by His own action. Every Christian reveals God's love not once but twice. His love is reflected not just in the mere fact of our existence, but in the salvation that He has given us. Our physical and spiritual lives bear a double witness to the eternal love of God. We were created, then, as the objects of God's love, with the capacity to love Him in return, so that the love of God might be known and glorified.

### III. What Did He Look Like?

- A. The next question in line is "What did He look like?" I assume this question means, "What did God look like?" There's a two-part answer to this question. We first have to recognize that since God is not of this creation, there is no reason why He should have a form that we should be able to perceive with the eyes of this creation. We see this idea confirmed in John 1:18. No one has ever seen God as He actually is. Now, it is true that God has appeared in various forms to man throughout history, commonly as a glorious humanoid figure. Both Isaiah and Ezekiel, for instance, describe God as a basically man-shaped being. However, those are just forms that God chose to adopt in a particular time and place, just as He chose to adopt other forms in other times and places. There's no more reason to believe that God looks like a brightly shining man than to believe that He looks like a pillar of fire or a burning bush. The reality of God transcends all of those.
- B. However, there is a time when we can pin down what God looked like—the time when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. While He was on earth, Jesus certainly had a physical form. We see the appearance of Jesus prophetically described in Isaiah 53:1-2. Basically, nobody would have confused Jesus with a soap-opera star. He didn't look like anything special, just a normal human being. What was inside was what mattered.

### IV. Is This All Real?

- A. The final question that we're going to be looking at this evening is "Is this all real?" Once again, this is a very reasonable question. After all, Christianity is based around the worship of a God that none of us have seen and that none of us will be able to see until the Day of Judgment. How do we know when we're doing all of these things that we do that we aren't just talking to the empty air instead of God?
- B. The best answer to this question is that even though we can't see God, we can know that He exists by looking at what He has done. There are plenty of things that we accept for similar reasons even though we can't see them. Oxygen is a colorless, odorless gas. Probably none of us have ever seen, or heard, or smelled, or tasted oxygen. However, we know that oxygen is present all around us because we continue breathing.
- C. God is the same way. All around us, we see things that cannot be explained without God. This is the point that David makes in Psalm 19:1-2. It's simply not possible to look at the creation with an open mind and not come to the conclusion that an invisible God is the One who made it. There is too much magnificence, too much beauty, and above all, too much order for it to be explained any other way.
- D. Now, there are many people, especially in the scientific world, who deny that all of this order requires a Creator. They say that the universe is the product of chance and that every form of life is also the result of chance, that if you have enough of the right processes happening randomly over and over again, a human being will result. Folks, I'm not a big fan of speaking ill of anyone, but it's fair to say that anyone who believes order is the result of chance has checked his common sense at the door. Chance disorders; it doesn't order.
- E. Let's suppose for a second that I got into the office of one of these scientists who believes that human beings are the result of chance. I get into his office, and I take every book from his office shelves, and I stack all of those books neatly in a cube-shape on his office floor. When that scientist comes back from lunch or the lab or wherever, what's he going to say? Is he going to say, "Oh, wow! Look! Random chance has just neatly stacked all those books on my floor?" No! He's going to say, "Who's been into my office and stacked all those books up?" That's just common sense. We know, scientists included, that books don't just randomly stack themselves neatly on the floor. We know that someone has to be responsible. Well, I'm here to tell you, friends, that there is far more order, far more design, in a single leaf on a tree, or a single drop of our blood, than in an entire library of stacked-up books. And yet, the scientist who is so quick to recognize the work of intelligence in a simple stack of books refuses to admit it in all the order of creation. That doesn't make sense.
- F. Once we accept that, then, that there must be an invisible God who created all things, we can accept the evidence that the Bible is a book with supernatural origins. Once we do that, then the entire Christian system of faith follows logically. Indeed, the evidence leads us to the thoughts of the apostle Paul, as described in 2 Corinthians 4:18. We recognize that sometimes, it's the things that we can't see that are more important than the things that we can see. That's why we're here—because even though we cannot see God, the evidence leads us to believe that He is real and that the Bible is His word.

**Conclusion.** If you believe that God is real and want to serve Him, obey His plan of salvation today.