

PP1 Worship we are made for.

Ever wondered what God has in store for you? Ever wondered if God has big things ahead? Are you God's chosen person to communicate His love to people? Well the answer to all this is yes.

WE are made for God's purposes.

Look at Genesis 1:26

PP2 enesis 1:26 (NIV2011)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

We are made in God's image. Physical image spiritual image? What image?

PP3 The word here is *tseh'-lem*

From an unused root meaning a *resemblance*; hence a representative *figure* image,

PP4 What does that give us?

We have a resemblance to God, we have a figure of God, we are created as an image of God or a showing of God is how one person put it.

The word image is also used a statue made in an image of someone.

So are we little Gods? Oh no. We have characteristic that God displays but He displays them as the original, we display them as a copy.

So what has this got to do with worship?

If we are made in the image of God and we link this with another verse.

PP5 Ephesians 5:1-2

5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

MM, here we have an interesting situation. We are made in God's image AND told to be imitators of God.

We are told to take God as our role model and live like Him. Yep.

But that's impossible. For you and me yes. But remember the verse we tried to learn last year. The verse we are trying to learn in Church on Tuesday.

PP6 Ephesians 3:20-21 (TLB)

²⁰ Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—ininitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.

²¹ May he be given glory forever and ever through endless ages because of his master plan of salvation for the Church through Jesus Christ.

We can't, but God can.

PP7 So our lives of imitating God can be amazingly better than we can do

IF

we are relying on God for the imitating not on ourselves.

Yeh, that's basically it.

Look at this verse:

PP 8 2 Corinthians 3:18

¹⁸ And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Made in the image of God, imitating God AND being transformed into His likeness.

It appears to me that God wants us to be more like Him!!!!

And how do we do that? Let's look at the passage before our memory verse.

PP9 Ephesians 3:16-18 (NIV2011)

¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Notice –

1. V16 That He may strengthen you. It is not necessarily how strong we are but getting His strength.
2. Notice too it is through His spirit. Again emphasising the God part of our living.

V17 Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Hey faith has something to do with this. What is this faith thing, it is our theme for the year.

PP10 pis'-tis

persuasion, that is, credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly constancy in such profession; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself: - assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.

Ok that is the dictionary meaning, but what is faith to you? We need to be able to state it, articulate what it is. We need to know about faith. You see we have faith that we come together to worship and that this experience of worship is valid.

We believe that the God we worship is alive and kicking, that He accepts our worship but let's be realistic the whole faith thing is abstract. We know it, we believe it because we experience something from it. But to those who don't faith is a nonsense.

We will unpack this further in the year but our faith determines our worship.

3. Note again v18 may have power together with all the Lord's people. – This faith, this worship is personal but corporate. A solo thing but also a together thing. We celebrate together on Sunday the worship we have participated in Monday through Saturday. We come together to worship.

Now for a biggy.

4.

PP11 grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

WE are told to grasp it. We are told to imitate it, we are told to be transformed by it. See where this is going.

We are made to relate to this God we worship. WE are made to copy this God we worship. We are made to let this God transform us. We are made to understand this God.

So we need to do a couple of things here.

- a. **PP12 Accept our image.** Accept the way God has made us. Don't try to be someone else's image, be the one God made you.
- b. **PP13 Attempt to copy God.** What is God like? He is Love, He is creative, He is caring, He is just, He is ... ok all the things we know of God copy them.
- c. **PP14 Let God transform us.** Let God do His work in us. No resisting.
- d. **Pp15 Try to understand God more.** – Get to know Him. Read the bible, get to church, be part of a bible study, We won't ever fully understand how awesome God is, I don't think even in heaven we will truly get it, we will be too busy, but we need to investigate the mind of God.

May I challenge you this week to attempt to **Pp16 learn Ephesians 3:16-18** to go with the verses that we have already tried to learn v20-21. If you can't learn it , ok spend time with the verses. Get to know them, understand them