

**“When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; what is man, that Thou art mindful of him?”** —Psalm 8:3-4

### **WHO ARE WE? What’s our place in the universe?**

God made human beings in His image and likeness.<sup>1</sup> No other creature was given that designation and privilege. It’s our glory and honor.<sup>2</sup>

When Adam and Eve sinned, humanity lost ready access to God but not the honor of having been made after His likeness or the responsibility of serving as His stewards over nature.<sup>3</sup>

God’s purpose for mankind is under constant attack. Marginalized people have many enemies who try to steal their dignity. The Enemy would like to convince us that some people are worthless, disposable, without purpose.

**AFTER THE FALL, God is still mindful of man.** He visited us, taking our form.<sup>4</sup> While here with us, Jesus was mindful of everyone:

- Women and children<sup>5</sup>
- The sick and disabled<sup>6</sup>
- The poor and oppressed<sup>7</sup>
- “Sinners” and enemies<sup>8</sup>

God’s law given through Moses told us how to behave toward others—including society’s outcasts—and Jesus showed it by example. He fulfilled the law perfectly in love.

**GOD IS MINDFUL of how we treat each other.** Because we bear His image, contempt for people is contempt for their Maker. God is pleased by our acts of justice and mercy.<sup>9</sup>

In Jesus’ day, as in ours, not everyone was treated with the dignity they

deserve as bearers of God’s image. We follow Jesus’ example by esteeming the value of every human life.

**GOD’S ATTENTION to us begins in the womb** and continues throughout our lives. According to Psalm 139:13-17, His eyes see our unformed substance and His book records all our days before one of them has come to pass: **“HOW PRECIOUS also are Thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!”**

According to Psalm 8:2, the praise of God in the mouths of the weakest and most vulnerable people—infants and nursing babies—brings Him glory and victory over enemies.

Let’s not silence little children, but rather protect their dignity and value. Let’s join our voices with theirs: **“O LORD our Lord, HOW EXCELLENT is Thy name in all the earth!”** —Psalm 8:1

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**Photo credit:** © Jamie Geysbeek, 2017. **1/** Genesis 1:26-31. **2/** Psalm 8:5-8. **3/** Gen. 5:1-3, 9:2-6; James 3:8-10. **4/** Matthew 1:23; John 1:14; Philippians 2:6-9. **5/** Mt. 9:20-22, 15:22-28, 18:10, 19:14, 21:15-16, 26:7-13; Mark 9:37, 10:13-16, 12:38-44; Luke 7:11-15, 18:15-17; John 4:7-10. **6/** Mt. 11:5, 12:22, 15:30, 20:34, 21:14; Mk. 1:41, 5:19, 7:32-35, 10:46-52; Lk. 13:10-17. **7/** Mt. 9:35-36, 11:28, 15:32, 23:4; Mk. 14:7; Lk. 4:18-19, Lk. 11:46, 14:13, 18:22. **8/** Mt. 5:44, 9:10-13; Lk. 6:27-36, 7:37-50, 15:1-7, 10 & 20; John 9:2-3. **9/** Leviticus 19:14; Proverbs 11:1, 14:31, 17:5; Jeremiah 9:24; Micah 6:8; Mt. 7:12; Lk. 10:27-29, 36-37; Romans 12:10 & 13; Galatians 6:10; Phil. 4:18; Hebrews 6:10, 13:16; James 2:1-9.