



Apostolic Notes

An Ezine of apostolic thought by Apostolic Missions Inc

Volume 1, Number 2 Maschmaltz@juno.com or www.apostolicmissions.org April 26, 2007



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Our Purpose*

Representative: One that serves as a delegate or agent for another.

– American Heritage Dictionary

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...

This scripture gives us wonderful insight into God's purpose for mankind. Adam was created in the image and likeness of God. Vines tells us that *image* means; "image or copy" of something in the sense of a replica. According to Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, *Likeness* refers to the representational aspect of the image.

Adam was God's image chosen to reveal or manifest Himself to creation. Through Adam, an invisible God made himself visible. But more than a visible image, Adam's purpose was to be representational of God. As God's likeness, he was to ACT as God's representative thereby revealing the nature and characteristics of God by those actions.

Adam's representational purpose was not manifest when God gave him dominion. It was manifest when Adam obeyed God's command and named the animals. God's image and likeness was revealed, not by Adam's position, but by his obedient actions to the commands of God.

Jesus Christ, as the last Adam, came as the visible image of an invisible God. However, he was more than an image, he was representational of the invisible God. In John 17:6 Jesus states; "*I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world:*" According to Vines, *manifested* is a verb that means; "*to make visible, clear, manifest,*" Thayer's says it is making visible or known "*what has been hidden or unknown, whether by words, or deeds*" (*emphasis added*). A verb is an action word. Jesus came making an invisible God more than visible; he came to make him knowable by demonstration.

Just as the scripture shows us that the first and last Adams were each to be a representational image of an invisible God, so we who are born again are to be representational. Paul tells us in Colossians 3:10 that we "*have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after **the image of him that created him:***" (*emphasis added*). We have been born again to a new nature, one that includes His representational image.

As His body, the church is to manifest Jesus Christ to this dark and confused world. However, we are not to just present an image of a good moral life, we have been authorized to conduct business as representatives of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. We are to walk in His delegated authority as we demonstrate to this world what His kingdom will be like. By manifestation and representation, we reveal to this world there is something better. We reveal to them that there is a King and He is coming with His kingdom and His name is Jesus!

What a privilege, what an honor, what a responsibility. We are chosen to ACT as the representative of the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings! Praise God!

*Until next time-
Martin*

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