

Why Did God Create Humans and the World?

God is fully good, fully loving, fully beautiful and absolutely true. These characteristics continually flow out of him. Within the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit), the relationship of love, grace, goodness and beauty is so full that it overflowed—producing the creation of a once perfect universe. God brought the world into existence with man as the capstone of this good work. He created man in His image so that they could share in His overflowing love, grace and goodness through an eternal and intimate fellowship with Him!

God did not need the world or need humans because God lacks nothing. Instead, God is so full of all that is good, that it overflows and spills out of Him. His very nature is to share His goodness, grace and love. He created people out of love for the purpose of sharing love. Man was created to love God. Additionally, when God created people, He gave them good work to do so that they might experience God's goodness and reflect His image in the way they care for the world and for each other. They were created without flaw or sin and God intended that the elect would live that way eternally.

When God created man, He also gave them free will so that they could freely share in His love. They were not robots who had no choice. Instead, God gave humans a choice; to either obey Him or to reject Him. Giving humans free will dignified their choice and recognized the image of God within them. After creating them, God told the first humans that there was one boundary they could not cross in order to live in fellowship with Him. However, our ancestors chose to disobey God's instruction; with this sin, they severed their relationship with God and ushered in Satan. Consequently with Satan came decay, corruption and death into the world. Thus, the human race and the world was utterly corrupted.

However, remember, God is good, and God is light. God did not want man to live in all sorts of perversion, darkness and separation; so, His secret plan was set in motion activated by the fall of man. His plan was to restore the universe and man to Himself, via His Son. Jesus Christ willingly gave His life as a sacrifice to pay for the sin of man's disobedience. Jesus Christ though crucified and dead for three days, *rose from the dead*, demonstrating God's power over death and the evil one, Lucifer. Man can now be set free from evil and sin.

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, men and women can now live in a restored relationship with God and they can properly love others with that agape love which only God can give them. Humans can live a supernatural life in the Holy Spirit and even participate in God's mission of bringing—healing, wholeness and restoration to the earth and the elect. Not all humans were chosen to believe, as Ephesians 1:3-5* makes clear; hence it is the elect who may exercise their will(s) to trust in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and eventually all elect will trust! It is the elect and only the elect who now serve as salt upon the earth.

Life in relationship with Jesus Christ increasingly becomes marked by joy, agape love, and peace. Yes, people still physically die. However, because Jesus Christ conquered sin and death through his crucifixion and resurrection, followers of Jesus Christ will and can experience eternal life with Christ before and after death! The old body may die, but the soul lives on eternally in a new spiritual body with Christ. Indeed, God's goodness, healing and wholeness continue to have the first and last word.

* s.v. Acts 13:39, 48