

# Paradise Lost: Why Was Mankind Created?

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## I. Introduction

We're embarking on a new series that will discuss the basics of the Christian faith, things like the Gospel, prayer, the Bible, sin, forgiveness, giving, God, Satan, and so on. But in order for us to truly understand what these things mean, why they should matter at all in our daily lives, we need to understand how our story begins. Why was mankind created, why are we here and what is the meaning of this life we've been given?

## II. In the Beginning God Offered Us Paradise with Him Forever

**God did not need our love nor our company**, some think that God created us to have something to love. They reason that without us, God is alone and has nothing to love, therefore, He created us. Actually, God took a GIANT risk when He made us. Because, contrary to what some may think, God has been surrounded by absolute and perfect love all His life, which is to say that God's been surrounded by this wonderful love for all eternity. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have been enjoying each other's love and company forever, Genesis 1:1–3, 26; Psalm 90:2; Exodus 3:14 (cf. John 8:58); John 1:1–2; 15:26; 17:5, 24. And to bring a creature less than perfect into this perfect community was risky at best. So why did He do it?

**God wanted to share His love and company with us forever**, the first sign of this is that He made us in His image, i.e., very similar to God Himself, Genesis 1:26–28. God thinks, so do we. God speaks, so do we. God creates, so do we. God works, so do we. God feels, so do we. God loves, so do we. God lives in community, so do we. God even gave us His sense of right and wrong, Romans 2:15. We are very much like Him. Why? Because He always intended for us to enter His private community; He wanted us to live with Him there, as one, forever, John 17:20–23.

How do we know that God loves us and wanted us to be with Him for all eternity? We can turn to Scriptures that clearly tell us that God loves us like John 3:16, or others that say that God does not want anyone to go to hell, 2 Peter 3:9. Instead He wants everyone to be saved, 1 Timothy 2:4. We can even turn to Scriptures that tell us that God hates it when a wicked person dies. Instead, He even wants the wicked to be with Him, Ezekiel 33:11. Do you know what penalty God demanded for idolatry, for worshipping false gods? In His Law, in Deuteronomy 13, God demanded the death penalty for anyone who worshipped false gods. Now, at one time the city of Athens was overrun with idols. The people of Athens were steeped in worshipping these false gods. When God sends the apostle Paul to speak to the Athenians, what's His message, "Prepare to die for worshipping false gods!"? No, God's message instead is, "You are My children. I know that you were led astray in ignorance to these false gods. But you are Mine, repent and return to Me," Acts 17:24–30. Even when we turn our back to God, He's still reaching out to us wanting us with Him. God loves us and has always wanted us with Him.

But there's an even more personal example which shows God's love for us. It's there in the beginning of time. When we look at the moment God first created us, what do we see? Were we an afterthought? No! We were the pinnacle of His creation, Genesis 1:26–31. How special were we to God? So special that He personally built us a home, made sure we were well-fed, and that we were not lonely, Genesis 2:2:7–9, 18–25. And what was His final intent for us? From the beginning His desire was for us to live with Him in perfect harmony forever, Genesis 2:9; 3:22.

**Is there other evidence that God loves us?** Have you ever noticed the way God made us? Look around you, every one of us came from a family. What's a family? God made us in His image; we are very similar to Him. He lives in a family: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are the first family to ever exist. And when He made us, He placed each one of us in a family where we would experience the kind of love that He's had for all eternity. Thus, He put us in a family where we would experience unending, unfailing, and sacrificial love. Why did He make your mom, dad, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, friends, etc? Why did He make the smile from a baby's face touch a mother's heart so deeply? All of these things are signs of God's unending love for us. Thus, the very way in which He made us, to live in a loving community surrounded by family and friends, is a testimony to His love for us.

Now, you might say, "I don't have a loving family. In fact, I was abused, I was abandoned, I was shown every horrible thing you could imagine. I was shown everything but love." Eventually, we're going to talk about what went wrong, why there are abused children in this world. But the first thing we need to understand is that this is not what God intended for us. When God made us, He made us to love and cherish one another. He meant for us to grow up in the kind of love that He's experienced from His Son and His Spirit. And every glimpse of that love from your family, from your friends, even from strangers, all of it, is what God intended for you. That's why there are people all over this world who are willing to adopt an unwanted child and give them a home, give them the love they were meant to have, the love they will one day show to their children. Every time someone expresses this kind of love to you, that's a taste of the perfect love God wanted you to have for all eternity. This is God saying to you, "My plan was always for you to experience this kind of love, first from your parents and ultimately from Me, My Son, and My Spirit...forever. Don't ever let anyone or anything tell you different."

And that's not all. Every blessing in this world that we enjoy is from God. He made the sun, moon, stars, rain, mountains, seas, He made all of it to bless us, Genesis 1:28–29; Isaiah 55:10. Every delicious meal, every material possession, every single thing that brings joy, comfort, meaning, and fulfillment to our lives finds its origin in the hands of a loving God who wanted nothing but the best for us.

**Therefore, at the core of His being, God is Love, Sacrificial Love,** how do we know this? Because even though God knew that after He created us we would turn our backs on Him, He created us anyway. He knew that we would commit the most horrible acts against Him and each other, Genesis 4:1–15, yet He did it anyway. Thus, even though He knew the terrible price it would cost Him (ultimately, the life of His Son, Genesis 3:15) to share His perfect love and fellowship with such imperfect creatures, He made us anyway.

This is what God wanted for us from the beginning. He wanted to share His endless and selfless love and company with us. He wanted us to live in the perfect community of His Son and Spirit where we would live under the blessings of His love. If we hungered, He would feed us. If we felt lonely, He would provide us a spouse and a family, which were reminders that we were never alone because we were always part of His family and community.

### III. Conclusion

*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.... And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."*