**In the Beginning: JOY!**

**(Genesis 1:24-31)**

**Yearly Theme: *“Joy is…”***

**Series Title: *Joy Before the Fall***

**January 5th, 2020**

***Something to think about:***

What is “Joy?”

**Joy:**  [**noun**](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/noun)

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**3: a source or cause of delight**

As we read through the Bible again this year considering joy as our focus, we come to the very first chapter of the very first book of the Bible: *Genesis*. In Genesis 1, after God had created The water, the land, the stars, the sun and moon, the plants, birds, and fish, we come to the sixth day of creation where God creates the animals, *and* the most important thing to Him: Humans. What we see when we enter into the story of day six of creation is a God of love creating the object of His love and joy, man and woman.

Let’s take a look…

***Genesis 1:24-31 (NLT)***

***24  Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.” And that is what happened. 25  God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.***

***26  Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like ourselves. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”***

***27  So God created human beings in his own image.***

***In the image of God he created them;***

***male and female he created them.***

***28  Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”***

***29  Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. 30  And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life.” And that is what happened.***

***31  Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!***

***And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.***

The key point this morning is this…

**Key Point: *“Humans were created in the image of God through an act of God’s love, joy, and generosity.”***

How is God’s joy reflected in His creation of man and woman?

1. **God creates them in His image.**

*Genesis 1:27a,b (NLT), So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them;*

1. **God creates equal and unique.**

*Genesis 1:27c (NLT), Male and female he created them.*

1. **God creates them to fill and govern the world He created.**

*Genesis 1:28 Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”*

***Something to take home:***

As image bearers of God, our joy in life cannot be found apart from God. True joy only comes from being connected with, and reflecting the image of, our Creator.

This new year (2020), will you consider making every day a purposeful day lived in the joy of the LORD. Will you, despite your circumstances, remember that you were created with a purpose, and that purpose is to reflect the glory of God in the life you live daily. Will you make a commitment, like the Apostle Paul to, “Rejoice in the LORD always; I will say it again: Rejoice!”?[[1]](#footnote-1)

Finally, we must continue to remember…

**Key Point: *“Humans were created in the image of God through an act of God’s love, joy, and generosity.”***

1. Philippians 4:4 (NIV). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)