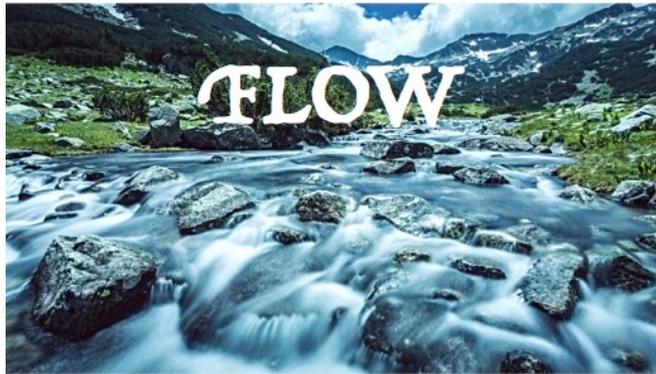


#12 March 16, 2017



Then God said, “**Let us** make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

**So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.**

**God blessed them** and said to them,  
“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Genesis 1:26-28



**Created for Loving and Generous  
Relationships with God and Others**

by Kylie Thalhofer

A couple of things to remember today:

1. **God IS relationship; so are We.** We believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. When God created the heavens and the earth, he communicated with himself, saying “Let us...” So if God created “mankind”—as a whole—in His image, then he created mankind to be in relationship with one another. Before the fall, God walked in the garden with his human creations. We know he created us to be in relationship *with* him, and we know we were created to be in relationship *like* him.
2. **God’s love is generous and unconditional.** What’s the first thing God does after he creates humans? He *blesses* them. Before God has any sort of conversation with mankind, God *gives*. He doesn’t ask for anything from them—instead he creates a home for them and gives them a purpose.

**Prayer:**

Praise God for loving generously and unconditionally.

Lift up to him any areas in your life where you don’t feel loved or valued. Ask God to fill you with his Spirit today, and ask him to work in your heart so you can love like he loves—generously and unconditionally.

**Questions:**

Are you receiving God’s love?

Think about each area of your life, and whether or not you are operating on the foundation of God’s love in each area. How would your thoughts and actions be different if you were, or were not, receiving God’s generous, unconditional love for you?

How do your thoughts and actions reflect God’s love to others?

Where do your thoughts and actions lack the characteristics of God’s love—generous and unconditional?