

## E. Parental Responsibility 2 of 2

NOTE: No Bible class on Tuesday, July 4, 1995.

The process and procedure is not for the parent to establish a friendship with his child so he can then more effectively rule him but to rule him so that a true friendship can be established and maintained.

It is common for parents to blame their failures on outside influences which are available in such overwhelming numbers today. But those outside adversities can be overcome with the establishment of wise policy.

It is the parents' responsibility to place strict controls on the accessibility of their children to harmful outside influences. They have the delegated authority and the plenipotentiary power to make and enforce any rules, regulations, policies, and codes of conduct which they believe are necessary and required to protect their children's souls. Your children may not agree with your policies or your rationales for imposing them but remember, they are not accountable to God for their upbringing—you are!

You may be upset about what your children are learning in school (or not learning). But you are the ones who sent them there. You are the one responsible for the problem—not the school and not the children.

The ultimate form of passing the buck is to turn a recalcitrant child over to God for discipline. But God has granted parents the authority to not only make policy but the power to make sure those policies are followed.

PRINCIPLE: Authority has no meaning if its imperative moods are not enforced.

If parents do not enforce the imperative moods of the policies they pass, then the child comes to believe that God will not do so either. The way in which a child orients to all of life's authority structures is by how his parents enforce their policies. So that there is no misunderstanding about who's in charge, God assigns to every parent absolute authority over their children. The child's job is to submit, obey, and honor his parents.

NOTE: This completes paragraph 7 of our study of imperative moods, "Parental Accountability, Authority, and Responsibility." We now move to:

## A. Soul Essence 1 of 2

At the moment of physical birth, God imputes soul life to biological life in order to create human life. This is called selection. Although the physical life is dependent upon the care and provision of parents, the child's life is God dependent.

Human life finds its catalyst in soul life and when the soul is removed physical life ends. Therefore, the study of soul essence reveals the true makeup of the human species.

We turn to the Scripture to identify the origin of life:

**Genesis 1:26** - Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."

The Hebrew word for "make" is *asah* and means to manufacture something after a pattern. The pattern used for soul essence is the image of God. The word for "image" is *be tselem*, best translated "shadow image." Thus, "shadow image" tells us that our soul was patterned after divine essence but in an inferior sense.

Hebrew scholars at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem confirm that the meaning of the words *be tselem*, have the same meaning today as they did in the ancient world when Genesis was written by Moses. It has to do with a spiritual facsimile.

Man is not a duplication of God but his soul is patterned after divine essence. From this shadow essence, man is capable of uniquely reflecting the image of his Creator.

Please note that Genesis 1:26 is where the three Members of the Godhead determined the pattern they would use to create the soul of mankind. They decided they would use their Own essence as the model for the human soul.

When they said, “*Let Us make,*” the intent was to manufacture the soul based on an existing pattern which eternally existed in divine essence. Thus, Genesis 1:26 is the “planning” verse. Genesis 1:27 becomes the operational verse:

**Genesis 1:27 - And God created [*barah*: to create something from nothing; *ex nihilo*] man in His own image, in the image of God He created [*barah*] him.**

The creation of human life was the function of Jesus Christ who followed the divine plan which He participated in developing.

**Genesis 2:7 - Then the Lord God [Jesus Christ] formed [*yatsar*; to create from already existing materials] man of dust from the ground [*biological life*], and breathed [*naphach*] into his nostrils the breath of life [*neshamah*, soul life]; and man became a living being [*human life*].**

This is the selection process. It is the imputation of soul life to biological life which creates human life. Soul essence is made up of four characteristics: (a) self-consciousness, (b) mentality, (c) volition, and (d) emotion.