

One of a Kind

by Richard Plaché

“When God made you, He threw the pattern away!” Have you ever had anyone say this to you— either in delight or disgust? Yet it is true! You are an authentic, original work of art, straight from the Master’s hand. There isn’t a duplicate anywhere.

The infinite variety of God’s creative skill can be appreciated more today than ever before in the history of man because of exciting new discoveries in the field of genetics. We are now being told that the average human couple has one chance in 10^{2012} to have one child identical to another. That number, which is a 1 followed by 2012 zeroes, is substantially greater than the number of stars in the sky (estimated at 10^{22}), and far greater even than all the atoms in the known universe (a “mere” 10^{80})! We are indeed, as David expressed it, “*fearfully and wonderfully made.*”

You are one of a kind. There will never be another person quite like you. Man is not the product of monotonous mass-production; every one of us is a specially-designed original. God is seeking to express Himself through each of us in a purposely unique way.

The true dignity and worth of man’s personhood lies in His divine legacy of individuality in identity. None of us is a carbon-paper creation.

But there is a conspiracy to rob us of our own unique, God-given individuality. This conspiracy works in two different, widely-divergent ways.

On the one hand, society seeks to cram us into a mold of monotonous conformity, where we become merely a nameless face in the crowd. Lost in the shuffle, we forego our sense of individual worth and expression. On the other hand, in a frantic frenzy to break out of the monotony, many, especially the youth, have fallen prey to bizarre, unconventional, far-out, non-conformist modes of behavior and appearance. In their desire to be different, they are driven to extremes of expression. Neither is God’s way.

God Himself is the ultimate, perfect model of Personhood. The manner in which God expresses Himself is the key to discovering our true, unique, individual identity.

The pattern is simply stated: God is perfect unity in infinite variety. Too often we have equated unity with monotony, oneness with sameness. But God’s very being is paradoxical—a variety of individuality within a unity of identity.

God’s plan for mankind is to ultimately reconcile “*all things to Himself.*” What first began with God as the All finally culminates with God as the “*All in all.*”

What God eventually ends up with is different from the way it began. The All has become personalized and individualized in a vast multitude of unique expressions of different facets of His infinite being. Miracle of miracles—that God has chosen to express Himself through the vast variety of life forms of which we are a part!

Innate within man’s innermost being is a desire to discover who he really is, and where in the eternal scheme of things he fits.

This search for identity is a search for reality. We cannot escape it, hard as we may try. We may delay coming to grips with it by allowing ourselves to be distracted and deluded by the material world that ((instantly demands our attention. But the “still, small voice,” crying out to us from within, will eventually be heard.

The reason we can never be fully and finally satisfied by the mere physical world is that we have been designed to need something more. We are not ordinary, run-of-the-mill creatures, functioning solely at the physical level. We are a special creation, made in the image of God—a God-kind of being, neither animal nor angel.

We are designed to be joined to God in a spiritual relationship that is not possible for any other creature. Therefore, to finally find ourselves we must go beyond merely analyzing our various physical qualities. We must discover what really makes us tick—who we really are, down deep where we live and move and have our being.

We can never come into our own or find ourselves until we have reached the point where we are ready to come to grips with spiritual reality. This cannot be done by functioning independently, separately, on our own, apart from God. We are only half there! We are incomplete—an unfinished creation. Only within a unity with God, through the indwelling presence of Jesus Christ, can we come into wholeness. In no other way can the complete picture of who we really are begin to emerge.

What we are physically through our heredity is the result of two separate genetic codes coming together into one integrated system. This makes us what we are. Half is supplied by the father, and half by the mother. The two had to come together in order to produce a new human body.

The same is true of our spiritual heredity. The Holy Spirit from God the Father must be joined to our human spirit in order for a new spiritual entity to be formed. The new man comes into being through a new birth. There is a unique “spiritual DNA” within our spirit, which combines with the infinite variety of God’s Holy Spirit, thus forming an original new creation.

Until this occurs, we cannot understand who we really are or the best way to utilize the unique physical qualities and attributes which we possess. The great tragedy of the human race, which began in the Garden of Eden, was that man imagined that he was able on his own to discover who he really was and what was best for him. He assumed that he was a self-contained individual, complete in himself.

After the first sin, Adam and Eve sought to hide themselves from God. They were ashamed and wanted to be left alone. When man chose to go it alone, God gave him what he wanted—his independence. He has let man have his own way ever since. He has pulled back, not intruding or meddling in man’s “do-it-yourself” approach.

God allows us to learn by experience that we just don’t have what it takes within ourselves, in isolation from our Creator, to make a success out of life. Nothing is more frustrating or futile than searching and never finding. Down through the ages man has consistently searched for himself, but he has looked in the wrong direction.

An individual here and there, according to God’s own sovereign choosing, and by divine revelation, begins to see the light. He sees the utter failure and I utility of doing things his own way, and finally comes to the end of himself—his incomplete self, his false self, his case of mistaken identity. As he surrenders to God’s absolute sovereignty in his life, he becomes aware of an enlarged dimension of reality by entering into union with Christ. The divine life is now manifested in and through his flesh.

When this happens to us, we embark on the most thrilling adventure possible to man. It is the progressive discovery of who we really are in Christ. Our search is not over, it is just commencing. But now we are no longer aimlessly groping and never finding. Instead, we have set our feet down in God’s promised land, and the exploration has just begun. There is progressive unveiling of the unsearchable riches of the Christ within.

As we press on toward our high calling in Christ Jesus, God continually unfolds before us all that Christ is within us and all that we are in Him. We become that original one-of-a-kind that He created us to be. We discover how marvelous God is—in us!