

*God created human beings 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 of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." God saw everything that he had made, and it was very good. – From Genesis 1*

## IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

*By Verna Kwiatkowski. Sky View. Upon the request of someone preparing for a Women's Conference.*

It's easy to believe that God loves everyone –  
women, and children, and men –  
for all are included in the world God loved  
enough to send his Son. But then –  
Some would restrict what women may do  
to serve the Lord their God. I, too,  
fell into the trap, but God has rescued me  
and left me with a story just for you.

Dear sisters, our value and worth is found  
in Genesis chapter one. In the story  
of creation we see that both Adam and Eve  
were needed to reflect God's glory!  
Two human beings, the same, yet different,  
male and female, there they stood,  
the fulfillment of the Creator's original plan!  
God smiled and said, "Very good!"

Both blessed by their Maker, they were given  
assignments to work on together –  
Subdue the earth; rule over animals; multiply!  
Oh, how they needed one another!  
How pleasant life was in the Garden of Eden,  
especially in the cool of the day –  
That's when God came walking in the garden  
to show them how to live his way.

Enter the serpent in Genesis three, intent on  
destroying Eden's perfect harmony.  
"I'll turn them against God and each other,"  
the serpent said. "Wait and see!"  
We all know the story. Both of them sinned;  
things would never be the same!  
When the eyes of both of them were opened,  
they hung their heads in shame.

God was not shocked. He then revealed that he  
had another plan to take their sins away.  
They each were confronted and each confessed,  
but the consequences remain to this day.

God told the serpent that the seed of the woman  
would some day crush his crafty head.  
Sisters, though Satan still tries to divide us, take  
heart! The serpent's as good as dead!

God was not finished with Adam and Eve. He made  
garments of skin, and then clothed them.  
No more in fig leaves, and with innocent blood shed,  
we leave Eden now and go on to Bethlehem.  
There the virgin Mary, the woman from Eden's story,  
cuddles the baby Jesus, God's only Son!  
Does God value women? Oh, yes, indeed he does!  
Also children and men. God loves everyone!

Read the gospel story. Jesus mingled easily with  
women and with men, and gave to each  
work to do for him. To a mixed group Jesus said,  
Go into all the world to teach, to preach!  
Women were also present when the Holy Spirit  
was given. Like the men, they voiced  
the gospel message to visitors in Jerusalem 'til  
it seemed the whole world rejoiced!

Finally, consider the words the Bible uses to  
describe those who are the Lord's:  
saints, kings, priests, and Christ's ambassadors –  
higher than all that the world affords!  
Add to the list, sisters, for there is much more  
to make our hearts want to sing!  
Heads up! Shoulders back! Live for the Lord,  
for we are daughters of the King!

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. – From 2 Corinthians 5*