

STUDIES IN GENESIS #12

Written by Calvin Fox
Monday, 01 June 2015 18:14 -

The Hebrew word for breath, ie- *nephesh*, and its Greek equivalent, *ruach*, often translated as “spirit”, are used in some texts as synonyms for the “Self.

The Self is the Image of God that is in our DNA.

The Image is what makes us “persons”. The moment of conception

,
ie- the fertilization of an egg by a sperm,
is the moment when the Image, Self or Person begins.

Personhood is innate.

It is our (human) nature.

This is a matter of ontology- of our essential nature, our very being.

Personhood, our value as a person, is not about behavior or activity or accomplishment of any kind.

If it were, only those who actually do something (judged by what other persons or our Society wants or values) would be persons.

This is a crucial distinction.

It is determines our perspective on abortion and euthanasia and other ethical issues.

Note: Adam, of course, was not conceived. He began life as an adult with no learned knowledge or memories, but he came complete, made in the Image of God. He was a person and a human being.

God was a person, but

He was not a human being.

Jesus was both.

Why was Adam created? Man was created to work and take care of the Land for God. (See v.5) That, again, is the Cultural Mandate.

8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

[When God much later, gives the 10 Commandments to Moses, the 4th Command is to work. It is a Labor Law.]

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The reason Eve, as a person, was created was to be Adam's helper in this work (vss.18 and 20)
The reason she was created female was that Adam and Eve could have children ("be fruitful and multiply"). They too would work!