

# Creation in the Image of God

(Mathews Mar Barnabas Metropolitan)

“So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them” (Gen.1:27)

This means that all human beings are given the potential to grow to perfection as God is perfect. God is love and there is not even an atom of selfishness in Him. Thus the human beings have the potential to grow to perfection in love. When people identify themselves with others, all the problems and aspirations of others will become their own. This will make them love and do everything for them. They will help, forgive, respect, and obey. This will result in heavenly joy.

At the same time we have the freedom to reject love and become selfish. Adam and Eve our first parents sinned. Through them the whole mankind is in sin. To save mankind from sin God had to incarnate and save us from sin through His sacrifice. He has shown us godly life full of divine love. Jesus Christ, God incarnate, was helping and serving everyone. (St. Mark 10:45) He washed the feet of the disciples showing respect. (St. John 3:12). He forgave those who crucified Him, praying for their forgiveness. (St. Luke 23:34) He obeyed the heavenly Father up to death, a death on the cross. (Philippians 2:8)

Human beings have to believe in the saving works of Jesus Christ, and to be born again through baptism. Our Lord has said, “Truly truly I say to you unless one is born again of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. (St. John 3:5) St. Peter says that we should repent and get baptized. “Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

We also have to receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ in order that He may abide in us. Our Lord said, “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life” (St. John 6:54) When our Lord abides in us, we will be filled with divine love.

Those who are in love can inherit the Kingdom of God. On the last day of judgment Christ will say to those on the right hand side, “Come O you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you, from the foundation of the world, For I was hungry, and you gave me to eat: I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in: naked, and you clothed me: I was sick, and you visited me: I was in prison, and you came to see me.” (St. Matthew 25:35, 36) “Truly I say to you, as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.” (St. Matthew 25:40)

Though we are all created in the image of God with the potential to become perfect in love, there is the possibility that we may become the worst beings. Hence we have to be vigilant up to the very end. God wants us to love always and make this world a heaven on earth. St. Paul says “Let all that you do be done in love” (1 Cor. 16:14)