

Created in the Image of God

by Bruce Rockwell

“So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” *Genesis 1:27*

My early journey of discovery about what stewardship might mean in my life began when a mentor encouraged me to be mindful of this verse from the Book of Genesis that tell us we are created in the image of God.

If I am created in the image of God, who is God? What are the characteristics of God in whose image I have been created?

The first thing I realized is that God is a God of love. God loves humankind, loves us so much that God gave humankind the gift of God’s own son, Jesus. God loves me so much that God has given me all that I am and all that I call mine. So, if God is a God of love, and I am created in that image, I am called to love as God loves. Now I can never love as God loves, but, if I am to be true to who God created me to be, I must strive to be a better lover each and every day. I must strive to love as God loves.

The next thing I realized is that God is also a God of forgiveness. God loves us so much that God forgives us again and again and again. God loves us so much that God forgives us even when we fall short of the mark. This has been a tremendous discovery or realization for me. Prior to stewardship becoming an important part of my life, I did not understand or



realize the forgiving nature of God. I used to be in fear of the judgment day, because I knew I was a sinner and continually fell short of the mark of what God wanted me to do and to be. But, as a result of my discovery about God, I realized that God indeed forgives me. What a liberating discovery that was! And, as one created in the image of God, I am called to forgive as God forgives. Again, I can never be as forgiving as God is, but I can strive to be better each and every day of my life.

Finally, I quickly realized that God is generous. Again, God loves us so much that God gave us the gift of God's own son, Jesus, who gives us a window into who God is. God is indeed generous. God gives and gives and gives again. God has given me all that I call mine. And I am called to be generous as God is generous. Again, I will never, can never be as generous as God. But I can strive to be more generous each day. Indeed my journey as a steward of creation compels me to strive to be more generous each and every day of my life

So, my journey of discovery about God had led me to the realization that as a steward of all of God's good gifts, I am called to love as God loves; I am called to forgive as God forgives; and I am called to be generous as God is generous.