

When we make something, we have high hopes for it.

A good dish – a cake sometimes falls.

When God created the cosmos, what do you think were his intentions?

I hope this is an utter disaster.

This is going to be spectacular.

God put painstaking detail into the beauty and mechanism of creation.

Westminster Shorter Catechism - Question 10

How did God create man?

God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures. (Gen. 1:26–28, Col. 3:10, Eph. 4:24)

“in his own image”

That means there is tremendous purpose and potential to God’s creation of us.

Every one of God’s created beings are beautiful and spectacular.

The problem is that the evil in our world wants to convince us that is not true.

- We hear the message you are not perfect.
- You are worthless.
- You are broken.
- Your life is a mistake.
- You have no real purpose in this world.
- Your best days are behind you.
- You are not as good as "that" person.

Our world batters us with these lies and before long we accept them and they become ingrained in our social and political order.

One of the most visible ways we do this is by judging others and ourselves simply by skin deep differences.

The color of people's skin is one of our world's most divisive differences.

I guess we never learned anything by singing:

Jesus loves the little children

All the children of the world

Red and yellow, black and white

They are precious in His sight

Jesus loves the little children of the world

That is what God saw when he created us.

Our differences are beautiful, not a reason to hate.

This December, on the day after Christmas, our world lost one of its greatest lights, **Desmond Tutu**

Tutu was a South African Anglican archbishop and theologian, who was a beacon of hope and love for our world and me personally.

He grew up in a world of racial inequality. He told stories of having to explain to his children why they could not play on the same playground as the white children.

Why the world did not see them as equals.

Archbishop Tutu was instrumental in the dismantling of South African Apartheid.

Apartheid (“apartness” in the language of Afrikaans) was a system of legislation that upheld segregationist policies against non-white citizens of South Africa.

It would be easy for those discriminated against to be bitter, but Bishop Tutu stated in his book **"God Has a Dream"** that "Suffering can either embitter or ennoble." He chose the later.

In his book, which is my favorite all time book and worth a read, he shows us that God created us for greatness.

But something is required for that greatness to immerge.

He says, "None of us comes into the world fully formed. We would not know how to think, or walk, or speak, or behave as human beings unless we learned it from other human beings. We need other human beings in order to be human."

Look at the creation story:

Genesis 2:18–24 (NRSV) — 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner."

19 So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

Pet lovers - Callie

21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. **22** And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.

"We need other human beings in order to be human."

Tutu continues, "God does not make us too self-sufficient. We have our own gifts and that makes us unique."

While the world often reflects our worth as being low, less, and without purpose, God shows us He has a dream for us that we have yet to realize.

Bishop Tutu says, "Each of us has a capacity for great evil but also for great good, and that is what convinces God that it was worth the risk of creating us."

Whatever our past, whatever evil we've done, whatever thoughts we have that question our potential, God knows there is far more good possible in you.

Genesis 2:18–24 (NRSV) — 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner."

19 So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field;

but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. **22** And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." **24**

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.