

Form & Fullness from the Master's Hand

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Halifax: 11 May 2014

Introduction:

Today we begin a new series in the book of Genesis, which is, of course, the first book in the Bible.

- It is foundational to everything that we believe.
- It is here that we establish the roots of our faith from which all fruit comes.

As we come today to the first chapter, I must say that I had a very hard time knowing where to start...

- Here we have the creation of the world according to the divine testimony, given to us by God's faithful prophet Moses who spoke and wrote as God's herald, declaring to us by divine enablement the very word of God.
- There is so much that we could go into here, and because that is so, I have decided to begin with a general overview sermon of this first chapter...
 - and then to preach a couple more sermons looking at some of the particulars.
 - The overall structure of this first section is instructive, and if I were to break it down without doing a general sermon,
 - the general lessons could easily be lost.

So please give me your attention as I read to you from God's holy and infallible word.

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. ⁶ Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." ⁷ Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. ⁹ Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land*

appear"; and it was so. ¹⁰ And God called the dry *land* Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that *it was* good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. ¹² And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good. ¹³ So the evening and the morning were the third day. ¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵ and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. ¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. *He made* the stars

also. ¹⁷ God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was* good. ¹⁹ So the evening and the morning were the fourth day. ²⁰ Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” ²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ So the evening and the morning were the fifth day. ²⁴ Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, *each* according to its kind”; and it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good. ²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the

fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹ And God said, “See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰ “Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for food”; and it was so. ³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. ^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

May the LORD add His blessing to His holy and infallible Word!

Let us begin right where the Bible begins...

I. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

A. This reminds us that everything goes back to God—everything!

1. His name is used 35 times in the portion we just read.
 - The word God is *Eloheem*—it is plural, reflecting the fact that He is three persons, but yet He is One, as shown by the singular verb form in Hebrew...
 - His unity is a striking feature that distinguishes the Bible’s creation account from all the other creation accounts.
2. He is the only One who was around when the earth was created...
 - a. That is why it says, “in the beginning...”
 - The beginning of the heavens and the earth were from God... He began them.
 - This is the testimony of scripture, and there is no other plausible explanation.

- b. The Word *create* is *bara* in Hebrew, which is used only of God and only of creation out of nothing... from no existing materials.
 - God called into being all that is in the universe—what the Hebrews called “the heavens and the earth.”
 - c. Pagans did not believe this when it was written and pagans do not believe it today...
 - Romans 1:20-21 explains why they don’t believe...
 - They start out knowing Him—He is very obvious—but they fall into unbelief because they are *ungrateful*.
 - Then they become foolish in their imaginations.
 - God turns them over to blindness to punish them for their ingratitude.
 - Romans 1 does not teach that everyone should be able to reason his way to God, but rather that because of ingratitude, people do not continue to believe in Him.
 - Their folly becomes more and more obvious in our day as science advances and their pet theory of origins becomes more and more embarrassed by the facts.
 - Like Pharaoh’s stubbornness, it becomes obvious that their unbelief is not entirely their own, but something that God has turned them over to.
3. That God made the world reminds us that everything was made by Him and for Him.
- We can find meaning and life only in Him.
- B. These simple words—*in the beginning God created*—are against all false world views...
1. Naturalism—really the absurd notion of self-creation by natural processes—that all around us just arose on its own for no reason...
 - No! In the beginning God created...
 2. Polytheism—that there were many gods who contend with each other and who together formed the world...
 - No! In the beginning God created...
 3. Pantheism—that God is mingled within creation—that He is not personal and transcendent, but a part of creation...
 - No! against these views, we have God’s clear word, *in the beginning God made the heavens and the earth*.
- C. When you boil it all down...
- Your life is utter vanity if you are disconnected from Him...
 - but it is *very good* if you are united to Him by faith.
 - You are either spinning your wheels and building for ruin,
 - or you are being shaped for eternal blessing in communion with God.

- Your life apart from your Creator is disconnected from meaning and purpose—it is nothing and you have nothing—nothing to rest in, nothing to go into—nothing insofar as you are isolated from Him.

TRANS> So it is clear that God made the world—He called it into being...But then we come to verse 2—and it tells us something a little surprising:

II. “The earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep!”

A. This is a preparatory statement for most of the account that follows...

- God is getting ready to tell us how He brought the earth from a useless blob to a beautiful habitation teeming with life!
 1. Look at how the blob is described—
 - *without form* essentially means that it had no purposeful shape—it was not suitable for habitation...it was just a blob...
 - *void* means that it was empty—it had no life on it at all—it was just a blob with nothing growing on it and nothing living on it.
 - *darkness* means that it was a place where nothing could be seen or distinguished.
 2. But Genesis 1 gives as the account of how God brought it from being a blob to a place of form, of fullness, and of light...
 - As we will look at in just a moment,
 - He brings forth light, then He gives the earth shape so as to prepare it for supporting life, and then He fills it with creatures!
 - It goes from without form and void in darkness to beautiful in form, full of life, and a place of light.

TRANS> But before we look at the details, I want to ask you a question...

B. Why does God bother with the process and why does He tell us about it?

- Why didn't He just go “boom” and bring forth the finished product?
 - Why did He make it “without form and void—in darkness” and then develop it instead of just making it complete to start with?
- I would suggest two reasons...
 1. First, He does it to increase our gratitude...
 - We have a problem with gratitude, so God does this to help us...
 - There is something about us—that when we see a process—it makes us more mindful of the fact of whatever it was that was done for us.
 - If someone writes you a check for a ten-thousand dollars, you appreciate it, but if you see the process—
 - if you see them out working day after day to earn that ten-thousand and you know that it was all for you—you appreciate it more.

- And so when God does this with His creation—when He does this process—it alerts us to the fact that He did all this creating for us...
 - He made the earth for us with us in mind—in His goodness and love.
 - He shaped it and prepared and filled it for us...
 - This ought to have the effect of making us very grateful...
 - When you see a tree, you have God’s testimony—when you look at the leaves and the bark and feel the shade of it or the texture—
 - You have God back of it saying, “I made this for you.”
 - “I made the whole earth for you—I brought it from being a blob in darkness to what it is—for you!”
2. Secondly, He does it to instruct us in the way He does His work...making things beautiful in their time—at the end of a process!
- a. We can become pretty frustrated in our fallen world.
 - We want heaven all at once...
 - We can become pretty discouraged with the sin in our lives—not to mention the sickness—but the sin—we want to do good, but we find that evil is present with us...
 - And we have to deal with sin in the lives of others too...
 - b. But when we read Genesis 1, we can come away with hope...He can change us and He will change us... in time...
 - We can see how God took the earth when it was an empty blob in the darkness and made it a beautiful habitation teeming with life!
 - We have displayed the difference that His creative hand makes.
 - Your life without His creative agency is just a blob in the darkness—it is void—empty—vanity!
 - It is utter folly to go on without looking to Him for life, for He is the source of life...
 - And in your fallen estate, you are but a blob until He takes hold of you.
 - Without His agency—His hand—His blessing—you are without hope.
 - Either He carries the process along by His creative genius and power, or you go absolutely nowhere!
 - So read this account—see how He works—and put your trust in Him!
 - He sent Jesus to take you from being an empty blob in the darkness to being shaped into His image and full of fruit and light!

III. Look at how God transforms the earth from blob to form and fullness!

- We are given hope that He is going to do something at the end of verse 2 where it tells us that the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
 - There is this shapeless empty dark blob, but the Spirit’s presence shows that God is getting ready to do something to change all that!
 - When Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit on the church, it showed that God had come to do a work in us—that He was going to do something—this is our hope!

- So let's look at what He does to transform the blob...
- A. The first thing He does is speak light into the darkness!
1. Yes indeed—verse 3 tells us that He simply said,
 - **“Let there be light!” and there was light!**
 - a. That is our God—that is all He has to do is say the word...
 - His word is not sounds—but the pouring forth of *things*—of things like light in the darkness!
 - In other words, when He speaks in this way, instead sounds coming out, *things* come out...
 - He made all things by the word of His power in this way.
 - This is stunningly powerful!
 - First He just speaks a whole new thing right into being—a thing that was not...in this case, light...
 - And then He separates it from darkness so that there is now both light and darkness...
 - Verse 4 says that calls the darkness night and the light day.
 - Marvellously, He does this without the agency of the Sun and the Moon!
 - The Sun and Moon are not created until the fourth Day.
 - Many of the pagan people worshipped the sun and moon as gods...
 - But God shows here that He does not even need them—
 - He had night and day, darkness and light, without their help.
 - He appoints them to be the source of light for the day and the night on the fourth day,
 - but He does not need them—They are His creatures.
 - Even the light that comes from them is His creation.
 - b. And you see that from this point on, having created day and night, He counts the days of creation...
 - He calls them “the first day,” “the second day,” and “the third day,” and so on...which shows that they are 24 hour days with evening and morning...
 - The first day began with darkness, but then God created light so that there was night and then day on the very first day.
 - From here on out, each day begins with the evening—with darkness—and then there is morning when the light comes.
 - This is where the pattern is begun and we have no good reason to think that anything but a 24 hour day is meant here...
 - The creation week is forever enshrined into the seven day week that we have to this day...It is the same kind of week.
 - The Hebrew word *yom* which means *day*, is used just like our English word...
 - You can speak of “the day of Alexander the great” and refer to a period, but when you say, “the first day,” “the second day,” and “the third day,” you are talking about 24 hour days.

- But the main thing is that God tells us that right here He begins night and day—on the very first day of creation.
 - The days in view here are days that have evening and morning and that establish the pattern for the future.
2. How thankful we should be for the light!
- Without God’s creative genius, we would have nothing but darkness.
 - God Himself does not need light to see, but He made it for us—so that we could see—He was thinking of us!
 - He made the world a place in which we could distinguish one thing from another by looking at them—
 - the whole idea of seeing is the product of His imagination.
 - He thought all this up for us!
 - We are used to the light just being there, but He is the one who came up with the idea—all for us.
 - Thank Him for it!
3. And let this encourage you to look to Him for spiritual light
- You are an idiot if you try to walk in your own light—
 - All the light that you think you have, you got from Him—
 - And you are a fool if you try to walk in your own understanding.
 - Because of the fall, we are darkness until His Spirit caused the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ to shine in our hearts...
 - Then we see—then we see our sin and are convicted by it—and we see what Jesus has done to redeem sinners...and we believe.
 - Don’t walk in your own understanding—the Lord who made you is the source of all light!
 - Look to Him to speak light into you by His gracious power!

TRANS> So where are we after day one?

- The earth is still a blob, but now it is a blob in the light—a liquid blob!
- B. Now let me show you what God did to give shape to the earth blob...so that it would no longer be a blob without form...
- There are two things He does to transform it into a hospitable habitation...
1. First, He creates a firmament to separate it from other blobs.
- At least, I think that is what is described here—there are a lot of different views about the firmament that He creates on day 2...
 - Look at the text—verse 6-8:
 - **Gen 1:6-8: Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.”⁷ Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.**

- Whatever the firmament is, it separates or divides the waters of the earth from other waters...
 - It should be understood that waters, in Hebrew, simply means liquid—not necessarily H²O—though it certain can refer to H²O.
 - But it seems likely here that until this firmament was created,
 - the liquid or molten blob of the earth was not yet clearly separated from other molten blobs (waters) that were to become planets and stars and things...
 - If that is so, then the firmament is the atmosphere—which of course though invisible, is a real thing of substance...
 - And the idea here is that God spread out things so that they were not all bunched together and created an atmosphere for the earth.
 - Jeremiah 10:12 seems to suggest this when it says:
 - **Jer 10:12: He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, and has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.**
 - Two other things that support this interpretation are the fact that God calls the firmament “heaven,”
 - and that later on birds are said to fly in the firmament and the sun and the moon are said to be placed in it.
 - This certainly makes sense of the passage, but the main thing is that God made a firmament to make way for the earth to be inhabited.
 - He was preparing the earth for life!
2. The second thing He does to transform it from a blob to a habitable place is to form the dry land.
- This is brought out in verses 9 & 10...
 - **Gen 1:9-10: Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land* appear”; and it was so. ¹⁰ And God called the dry *land* Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that *it was good*.**
 - You see God’s authority—calling into existence the sea and the dry land—
 - Obviously dry land was necessary for life, as were also the oceans...
 - We could not live if the earth was still a watery blob.
 - But God formed it to be inhabited by us. He did it for us.
 - My wife has mentioned to me several times how struck she was at a planetarium we visited once where, after taking an imaginary voyage in which we saw images of all the desolate inhospitable planets...
 - we returned to the earth...and it looked so beautiful—so welcoming and hospitable—with its land and sea—a place for life and blessing!
 - Indeed how thankful we should be to our God that He did not leave it a barren wasteland!

- God has given us a lovely place to live—so welcoming, so beautiful.
 - This can, perhaps, be compared to God’s shaping of our lives when we come to Jesus Christ...
 - We are without form, but He writes His law in our hearts and then we are renewed into His image—transformed and shaped for His glory.
 - We become a place of life and purpose and beauty instead of a place of death.
 - Just as the LORD alone was able to change the earth from a blob into a habitable place, so He alone is able to change us from a spiritual blob into a holy disciple of Jesus.
 - Without Him, you are without form, but with Him, you are being shaped for beauty by His word.
3. And yet another thing is done on this third day to make the earth habitable...
- a. In verse 11 and 12, we are told how God commanded the earth to bring forth its vegetation—each plant according to its kind...
 - God sets boundaries here—so that each is able to reproduce within the boundaries of its kind.
 - This shows us clearly that God made things to reproduce, but not to become altogether different things—not for a tulip to slowly transform into an oak tree or something...
 - b. But how kind the Lord was in making all of the plants and trees for us.
 - Later on, this vegetation is given to man and the animals for food...
 - Here again, we see that our God was thinking of us—thinking of our happiness and pleasure—
 - making everything from corn to cayenne pepper! Pistachios to oranges!
 - He could have made dry pellets for us to eat, but instead He filled the earth with bounty and goodness for us to enjoy!
 - He is always looking out for our needs, being thoughtful of us.
 - He has no need of food—He made it all for us!
 - He came up with the whole idea of eating for us.
 - When we eat, we should hear His divine testimony saying to us, “I made this for you!”

TRANS> So you see the progress that has been made for us at this point in the creation narrative...

- The blob in the darkness has not only become a blob in the light,
 - but now it is no longer a blob at all, but a place ready to be inhabited...
 - It is no longer without form, *but it is still void*...

C. But look what the LORD does to make it a place that is inhabited—teeming with life!

1. First, He populates the heavens—with distinctive bodies...

- In verses 14-19, you can see how the scriptures describe God’s calling into being the lights of the heavens...
 - the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night—and it says that they are to give light upon the earth.
 - Now we have seen that God created the light on Day One, and also day and night and that evening and morning began then...
 - But now He creates the light-givers...
 - Some have suggested that these were already made, and it is possible, but a little forced, to read that into the text...
 - They say this to avoid the problem of the earth needing to orbit the sun and to receive its heat and light from the sun...
 - But it is very short-sighted to suppose that God needed such things.
 - Feeling a need for such things shows how quickly we forget what was actually going on here!
 - The natural order of things is not at all established yet!
 - God is calling things into existence that were not even in existence.
 - He is working way, way above and beyond the laws of nature that He built into His creation!
 - Before you put things together and put them in their final place, you first have to make them.
 - A running motor is dependent on many parts that work together—but before it can run, you have to make the individual parts and set them in place.
 - God made the world so that once it was finished, it works without miraculous intervention,
 - but when He called it into being,
 - it was all miraculous intervention!
 - Things don’t just form themselves, as naturalists imagine, vainly trying to rely on deep time to avoid the problem.
 - Everything had be designed and made and put in place, and God made the light of the day and night first—then He made the sun and the moon.
 - He made them in a complete integrated system where everything works together in beautiful harmony.
 - It is a masterful work that He has done!
- So now the firmament that God made is inhabited with the sun and the moon and the stars—all the celestial bodies that God made.
- His amazing extravagance is seen in the abundance of stars and planets that He made—just as it is seen in the variety of snowflakes that fall and in the tremendous variety of plants and animals that He has made.

2. Verses 20-23 go on to tell us how He populated the oceans with fish and skies with birds on Day Five,
 - and verses 24-25 tell how He populated the land with animals on Day Six.
 - Again, He makes each of these after their own kind and calls upon them to be fruitful and multiply...
 - And after He has made them, it declares that it is good.
3. But it is at verse 26 that we come to the climax of God’s creative work! The creation of man!
 - a. There is a kind of drum roll that occurs here when God, for the first time, is seen to enter into council with Himself...
 - Verse 26 opens with the words, **“Let us make...”**
 - This shows us that something special is about to happen.
 - God, who is a trinity, is speaking among His three persons—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - This passage alone does not reveal that, but if you regard the rest of the Bible as God’s revelation, then that is the explanation for this conversation—it is a conversation among the three persons.
 - Now God is ready to create the one that He made all of these things for!
 - b. And as we listen in here on the divine counsel among the three persons, we learn of the uniqueness of man...
 - 1) First, that man is made in the image and likeness of God—we will look at this in more detail in future sermons...
 - But for now let me simply repeat what our catechism says, that we are made in God’s image in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness.
 - It is most certainly not God’s physical image that we are made in, for God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men...
 - But His image in knowledge means that we are able to think God’s thoughts after Him—to have true understanding...
 - His image in righteousness means that we have a moral nature, a sense of right and wrong, and a desire (apart from the fall) to truly love one another and do right by one another.
 - His image in holiness means that He has made us worshippers who are able to know Him and to adore Him and reverence Him as our Maker.
 - This sets us apart from the beasts—unless we are turned over to folly because of our ingratitude and become like the brute beasts.
 - 2) Not only are we made in God’s image, we are also here given the marvellous ability to reproduce—to bring forth more image bearers of God!

- In fact, God tells us to be fruitful and multiply, and blesses us with the ability to do so—
 - Verse 28 says: **Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth...”**
 - It is enough that we were made in His image—but how wonderful that we can fill the earth with image bearers of God...
 - who are full of knowledge, righteousness, and holiness!
- 3) And on top of all of that, God gives us dominion over all of creation...
- He puts us in charge of it as princes, saying,
 - **v. 28: fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**
 - Before the fall, the earth and its inhabitants were under our authority—we did not die and turn to dust as we do now—
 - we reigned in the earth!
 - God gave us the earth at creation because He made it all for us.
 - He is like a joyful parent, presenting to us the gift of this world that He has prepared for us...
 - **Gen 1:29: And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.”**
 - He is saying, “See, I have made this for you!!!”
 - How thankful we should be for this kindness of our God!
- c. Now that man has been made, God looks at it all and He says not only that it is good, but that all that He has made is *very good!*
- And truly it was very good!
 - There was no sin—man was in the image of God without corruption—and there was no curse and no death.

IV. So now with Day Six complete, the earth was not only formed for habitation, but also full of inhabitants!

A. Just think what God did in His work of creation!

1. He brought it from being in the darkness to being in the light...
 - from being without form to being beautifully formed for man...
 - from being empty to being filled with life and even with His image bearers!
2. Without Him, the earth would not be here at all...
 - And without His powerful work, it would be no more than a formless blob!
 - This shows you that God alone is able to give shape and meaning and fullness to our lives!

B. And I want you to see where this marvellous creation leads...

1. It leads to a holy Sabbath!

- What He has done is so wonderful that it calls for commemoration—for celebration—for acknowledgement and joyful remembrance—
- It calls for praise and thanksgiving and worship!
 - The God who has done all of this must be praised—it cannot be any other way!
- 2. And so we have the declaration in Gen 2:1-2 that **God rested from His work—**
 - that is, He was finished with His work—not that He was tired—but that there was no more to be done of this creating—it was complete...
 - so He rested—He stopped—he ceased!
 - That is what is says in verse 1-2...He has nothing more to create.
- 3. And in verse 3, God blesses the seventh day of the week—
 - He sets it apart from all the other days—
 - **Gen 2:3: Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.**
 - This day is a special day that is given for the remembrance of God who made the heaven and the earth—
 - so thoughtfully, so graciously—for us.
 - As His image bearers, this day is set apart for us to rejoice with Him in what He has done here.
 - It is a day for us to consider that He is our Maker and that we are nothing without Him!
 - Creation week begins with God making a blob that He then forms into a beautiful home for us—
 - And it ends with worship!

Conclusion: Some of you, I fear, are living apart from your Maker...

- Your life is not for Him...
 - It is not about pleasing Him—or doing His will...
 - That is secondary to you...
 - You may even be trying to live a good life and you may ask Him for help to do that...and you may follow some of His rules...
- But you are not really given over to Him as your Creator...
 - You are not living for Him by His powerful grace in Jesus Christ...
 - Your life is still your own because you have never really given it to Jesus to be recreated by Him!
 - You are not interested in tapping in to His life-giving power that is shown in His creation to transform you from a blob to a beautiful believer who is filled with the life of God.
- You must not go on like that!
 - You must repent—turn from your own way and come to Jesus!
 - Plead with Him for forgiveness and look to Him to bring you from blob to fullness...it is the only way...or you will die in your sin.
 - What keeps you at a distance from Him? What is it? Give it up and live!

- He is able to make the light shine in you—He is able to shape you and fill you with life!
- Do you know Him as Creator? As the one who recreates you?