

God's eternal economy (NS180)

1. God's eternal economy

Ephesians 3:9 -And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

Ephesians 1:10 -Unto the economy of the fulness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

! Timothy 1:4b -Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questioning rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

- The Greek word, *oikonomia*, means household management, household administration, household government and, derivatively, a dispensation, a plan or an economy.
- God has a plan. This plan has everything to do with man. In the Bible, this plan is called God's economy. God's economy is God's entire plan for man.

**Is to make man the same as He is
In life and nature,
But not in the Godhead
And to make Himself one with man
And man one with Him**

Genesis 1:26 -And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, and let them have dominion...

Hebrews 2:10 -For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Hebrews 2:11 -For both He sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers,

- In order for Christ to sanctify the believers and thus make them God, Christ first needed to accomplish redemption. In His resurrection Christ regenerated us to be the many sons of God (1 Peter 1:3) Although we received the divine, eternal life through regeneration, we are not yet sons of God in full. Hence after regenerating us, Christ intends to sanctify us by transforming us (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2) Whereas to be regenerated is a once-for-all matter, to be transformed is lifelong. From the day that we were regenerated until we are glorified, we need to be continually sanctified, that is, transformed, by being made God. Eventually, Christ will bring us into glory (Heb. 2:10). When we are glorified, we will be absolutely holy, and we will be fully the same as God in His life and nature (1 Thes. 5:23 ; Heb. 12:10 ; 2 Pet. 1:3-4 ; 1 John 3:2).

- For God to sanctify the believers is to not only make them sons of God but also make them God in life and nature—but not in the Godhead or as an object of worship.

Thus to be enlarged and expanded in His expression

That all His divine, that all His divine

Attributes may be expressed in human virtues.

Genesis 1:26 -And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, and let them have dominion...

- God carries out His eternal economy through a number of steps. First, He created man in His image and according to His likeness.

Hebrews 2:14a -Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil.

- Then God became a man in His image and according to His likeness. He became a man in His incarnation to partake of the human nature.
- He lived a human life to express His attributes through man's virtues. He died an all-inclusive death and resurrected to produce the firstborn Son of God and become the life-giving Spirit (Rom. 8:29 ; Acts 13:33 ; 1 Cor. 15:45).

1 Peter 1:3 -Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

- This was all for Him to dispense Himself into His chosen people to regenerate them with Himself as their life for producing many sons—many God-men
- For the forming of the churches with His many sons and for the building up of the Body of Christ with His brothers as the members to be the organism of the processed and consummated Triune God, consummating in the New Jerusalem as His eternal enlargement and expression.