



Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship



“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.”
Col. 1:28

“Created in His Image”

Gen. 1:26

April 6, 2025

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Gen 1:26

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man **in Our image, according to Our likeness**; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

- Man is totally unique.
- The Trinity were all involved with the creation of man.
- Man was part of God's Master plan.
- Whereas God created everything else - stars, fish, birds, animals - en masse, only 1 man was created.
- What does "the image of God mean" . . .

Image of God

General Definition: The image of God means we were made to resemble God and to reflect Him to the world around us. Man is the physical, visible, representative, of the invisible God, here on earth.

- **What it does not mean:**

1. We do not resemble Him physically.

1. God is spirit.

John 4:24

24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

2. Animals have physical bodies but were not made in His image.

2. We do not resemble Him in His immaterial, non-communicable attributes – sovereignty, aseity, immutability, infinity, omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscience, veracity,

- Therefore, we resemble God in a limited, immaterial way.

In what way does man resemble God?

- 1. Intelligence.** Reason. Creative. Rational. Anytime someone invents a machine, writes a book, paints a landscape, enjoys a symphony, calculates a sum, or names a pet, he or she is proclaiming the fact that they are made in the image of God.
- 2. Morality.** Conscience. Whenever someone writes a law, recoils from evil, praises good behavior, or feels guilty, he or she is confirming the fact that they are made in the image of God.
- 3. Volition.** Ability to choose a course of action. Whenever someone gathers the facts, weighs the facts, deliberates, contemplates, makes a choice, chooses A over B, he or she is confirming the fact that they are made in the image of God.
- 4. Communication with language.** Able to impart thought through words. Whenever someone carries on a conversation with words, makes a phone call, sends a text or email to someone, prays, cries out to God, he or she is confirming the fact that they are made in the image of God.
- 5. Relationships.** With God. With others. Whenever someone expresses a need for friendship, dating, marriage, or community, hugs a child, attends church, he or she is confirming the fact that they are made in the image of God.
- 6. Personhood.** Dignity. Value. Self-worth. Whenever someone votes or verbalizes the right to life of the unborn, helps those who are poor and destitute, assists the elderly, he or she is confirming the fact that they are made in the image of God.
- 7. Representatives.** Rulership through care and concern. Whenever someone tames an animal, cares for an animal, picks up trash in a park, trims a hedge, is not wasteful, uses resources wisely, he or she is confirming the fact that they are made in the image of God.

“You’ve never met a “mere mortal” and you never will. In God’s eyes there are no “little people.” Everyone matters to him because his image is in each person—small or great, rich or poor, young or old, educated or illiterate, healthy or sick, strong or weak, and his thoughtful care extends from the moment of conception when the unborn child is just a microscopic bundle of cells all the way to the moment of physical death.”

- C.S. Lewis

Does sin destroy the image of God in man?

- No. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that the image of God has been destroyed by sin.
- It does say however that it has been marred or damaged.

Ps 58:3

3 The wicked are estranged from the womb;
These who speak lies go astray from birth.

Jer 17:9

9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else
And is desperately sick;

Rom 3:10-12

10 "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;
11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,
THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;
12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS;
THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,
THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.

Titus 1:15:3:3

15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

3 For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

Eph 2:1-3

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Eph 4:18-19

18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

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- In fact, man needs the image to be a sinner.
- Animals cannot sin. Man can.
- Man makes decisions (volition) and is therefore responsible for his sins.
- Repentance would be useless. Hell would not exist.
- Wicked people remain in the image of God, despite their sin.

James 3:9

9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the **likeness** of God;

Our responsibility.

- If we are God's representatives of God's image, what kind of representatives are we?
- We are to represent God in the purest form of the 7 meanings of His image.
- I was made to show forth the glory of God to all creation. This is my role and my duty.

1 Cor 11:7

7 For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.

- I am His ambassador reflecting His image to the world.
- That is why I take sin seriously,

2 Cor 5:20

20 Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- I need a holy image to restore my fallen image.
- When I am saved, the direction of my life now focuses on the image of Christ. I want to become like Him.

- Christ is the image of God, so to become like Him is to restore the image of God in my life.

Heb 1:3

3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact **representation** of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

Col 1:15

15 He is the **image** of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

2 Cor 3:18

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same **image** from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Cor 4:4

4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the **image** of God.

Application

1. You bear the imprint (like a coin) of the image of God upon your life.
2. So how are you doing on your “image”?