

Genesis: In the Image

God's masterpiece

Genesis 1:26 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."

- God puts His signature on His creation. He made man in His image.
- The Imago Dei – The image of God.
- Man is the greatest creation because of the image of God.
- The word image = carved image or idol (Let no one make any carved image).

We are commanded to have no idols representing God because we are the idols.

- We represent the image of God. We are the idol, the image of God to the rest of the world.
- **2 Corinthians 5:20** Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

Genesis 5:1-3 This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created. ³ And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot *a son* in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

- The same terms are used for the Parent – Child relationship.
- This shows that in the same way traits are passed down from one generation to another, so it is with God and us.
- To be in the image of God is not about how we look. Our physicality will change.

- We are created as spirit. We can reason. We have a soul with thoughts, emotions, will. We have these because God has these. Intellect. Morality.
- **Ecclesiastes 3:11** He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except [without which] that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

- Adam perfectly reflected God. He was created in perfection. This changed in the fall.
- The fall reveals something though:
 - Because we have a will we have the ability to choose good over evil. Only those in the image of God can do that.
 - **Ephesians 4:23-24** and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
- Morality comes from God. That is part of being in the image of God.
- Without God there is no morality. That's why animals do all kinds of things that would be considered immoral. But we are not animals.
- If morality is based on anything other than God, then it can change.
- How we interact with one another reflects how we interact with God.

We are also in His image by being Triune

- We reflect His Triunity. Let Us make in Our image.
- For the greatest creation God does not just command it. He has a conversation and then forms man.
- People are a trichotomy. Spirit, Soul, Body.

Authority

Genesis 1:26 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.”

- Let them have dominion – People are the pinnacle. They have full authority over the rest of creation.
- We are to steward God’s creation. But we are superior to all of it.
- There is nothing in creation more important than us.
 - This is one of the problems with climate change initiatives.
- Authority of the believer is a separate topic. But it is established here.

Gender in Scripture

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- Man is generic (Adam). Male and Female are specific. (their actual names being Ish and Ishah)
- God created 2 distinct yet equal genders.
- There are only 2 genders. God did not create anything else.
- Men and women are different. They were created different. We are intended to compliment each other.
- When you remove God, men dominate women. Anytime you see this, God is not a part of that.

Genesis 1:28 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.”

- God created people to have stewardship. Part of that is multiplying. This includes procreation. Creation is meant to be sustaining.
- The earth is meant to be subdued. To work the ground.
 - Work is part of God’s design, just not the burdensome part of it.
- Again, dominion is assigned.

Genesis 1:29-30 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.

- People are looking after God’s world. We were originally created to be vegetarian. It is after the flood we are given permission to eat meat.
- God reveals Himself as our sole provider. We should only look to God for our provision.

Genesis 1:31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

- All other days were good. This day was very good.
- God created people to bring Him glory.