



Got Questions- What is the Image of God?

The Image of God: humans were made for relationship with God and made to resemble him (his likeness).

- Tonight's points:
 - What is an image?
 - What does it mean to be made in God's image?
 - Some objections/questions.
 - The fractured image.
 - Jesus Christ, the true Image of God.
 - Redeemed Relationship.

What is an Image?

Luke 20:24-25 ESV – "Show me a denarius. Whose likeness (*eikon-image*) and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's." 25 He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

The Creation of Humanity in the Image of God

Genesis 1:1, 24-31 ESV –

- Image and Likeness – A Hebrew Parallelism (two words explaining each other)

Acts 17:24-28 ESV - 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."

- **God created us in his image so that we would display or reflect or communicate who he is, how great he is, and what he is like.**
 - **God designated humans to have dominion over his earth:**
 - **Psalm 8:3-8 ESV** - 3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? 5 Yet you have made
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him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, 7 all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field...

- **This is true of humanity in general, and would be particularly/ultimately true of the Messiah.**

Two Questions:

1) Isn't Spirit the image of God?

- **Genesis 9:1-7 ESV** – 1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. 2 The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 5 And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. 6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. 7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it."
- **1 Corinthians 11:7a ESV** - 7 For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God...
- **James 3:8-9 ESV** – 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

2) If the image of God is a good thing, why are so many bad things seen in humanity?

- **Genesis 5:1-3 ESV** - 1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. 2 Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. 3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.
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Creational Dignity

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Replacement Images:

- In the Old Testament, the same word for “image” from the garden is often used negatively from Genesis 10 onward referring to graven, carved, or vain images (idols)
 - These are “false representatives” of God.
 - **Exodus 20:4** “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
 - **Psalm 106:20 ESV** - 20 They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass.
 - **Romans 1:23 ESV** - 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

The True Image of God

- **Colossians 1:15 ESV** - 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
- **2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV** - 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Where is Redemption Found for humanity?

- **Romans 8:29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
 - **2nd Corinthians 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
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