



ORIGINS

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So, God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them and said, ‘Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.’”

Genesis 1:26-28

What does it mean to be made in God’s image?

We are unique in our design:

1. Given Authority & Responsibility
2. Our Words Matter
3. Eternal Spirit / Soul
4. Free Will = Choice with consequences & accountability
5. Creative

Function / Purpose – To Know God, and Make God Known.

1. Made for Relationships with God & Others – be connected to God
2. To reflect / represent / demonstrate attributes & character of God
3. Made to rule on behalf of God

Application: Everyone has value & Purpose

To be made in the image of God means that every human life is sacred, inherently valuable, and worthy of dignity—regardless of ethnicity, ability, productivity, viability or perceived worth.

Value is determined by the One who created, desires, and paid for it.

Value is not self-assigned—it is given. Therefore, we do not have the authority to assign our own value or that of others.

“Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.”

Ephesians 4:21-24

“Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.”

Colossians 3:10

Psalm 8

- ¹ O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!
Your glory is higher than the heavens.
- ² You have taught children and infants
to tell of your strength, silencing your enemies and all who oppose you.
- ³ When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—
the moon and the stars you set in place—
- ⁴ what are mere mortals that you should think about them,
human beings that you should care for them?
- ⁵ Yet you made them only a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.
- ⁶ You gave them charge of everything you made,
putting all things under their authority—
- ⁷ the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals,
⁸ the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea,
and everything that swims the ocean currents.
- ⁹ O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

The fall of man raises the question whether the image of God has been lost. The answer is both No and Yes. First, the Bible indicates that fallen man retains the image of God with respect to our value and dignity, which is God’s explanation for forbidding the wrongful taking of human life: “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image” (Genesis 9:6).

Christ came not only to remedy our standing with God but also to restore God’s image within us through sanctification. Thus, the language of Genesis 1:27 is echoed in the New Testament teaching that by faith in Jesus we are being “renewed in the spirit of [our] minds ... to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph. 4:23-24)

Purposeful Stewardship

Human’s dominion over creation argues for mankind’s accountability to God.

All human beings are called to represent God’s kingship through the whole range of human life on earth. And God’s rule is not the rule of a despot, but the loving nurture of a caring parent.

- **Application:** Live intentionally in your work, creativity, parenting, and leadership—reflecting God’s wisdom and love.
- **Impact:** Your daily life matters. Every decision, word, and act reflects something about the God you image.

Colossians 3:17 – “Whatever you do... do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus...”