



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Genesis 1 – 19 Sermon Series
Supports Session 1: The First Week
Sermon Title: “The Image of God” (Genesis 1:26-31)

Connection to Session 1

God created the heavens and the earth, which is shown in this first session. On Day 6, a special focus of His creation was on men and women, who were created in His image. As such, God gave them special attention and specific tasks relative to His creation.

Introduction/Opening

Over the years, many have tried to define the image of God, yet this concept is difficult to describe:

- “Christian thinkers have tried to locate the image of God (*imago dei*) in various dimensions of man’s being, including man’s spirit, soul, rationality, will, mind, personhood, immortality, and even his physical body. But Scripture is not specific as to exactly what it is about man that constitutes the image of God. The image of God cannot be reduced to one attribute or any combination of attributes of man. The biblical portrait is more holistic. The entire man, as a human being, images God.”¹
- “One thing it means is that men and women possess the attributes of personality, as God himself does, but as the animals, plants, and matter do not. To have personality one must possess knowledge, feelings (including religious feelings), and a will. This God has, and so do we.”²

Outline

1) It is Expressed Physically

- a) God created people alike.

¹ Johnson Jerry A Johnson, “Image of God” in C. Brand, C. Draper, A. England, S. Bond, E. R. Clendenen, & T. C. Butler (Eds.), *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 806.

² Boice, J. M Boice, *Genesis: an expository commentary*, (Ada, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 90.

- i) Ultimately, men and women share a similar physical makeup with a beautiful diversity of appearances.
- ii) This is affirmed by Christ in Matthew 19:4 and Mark 10:6.
- b) God has created people equal.
 - i) All are created equal before God.
 - ii) Men and women have an equal value before God.
 - iii) All people of all races have equal value before God.

2) It is Expressed Relationally

- a) People can relate to God (Gen. 1:28-30; Ps. 128:1-4).
 - i) In the garden, God had a personal relationship with man and cared for him.
 - ii) People have the capacity to relate to God, unlike any animal, plant, or bug.
 - iii) We have the capacity to love God and place Him first (Matt. 22:37-38).
- b) People can relate to one another.
 - i) We are called to love people as a testimony to Christ (Gal. 5:14; Rom. 13:8-10).

3) It is Expressed Spiritually

- a) God has given man the ability to worship Him.
 - i) God has given man the gospel.
 - (1) All have sinned. (Rom. 3:10)
 - (2) We are unable to pay our sin debt.
 - ii) Since man is a creature separated from God by sin, he must be renewed, brought out of death and to life.
- b) To worship God, one must be forever changed.
 - i) People are created with the capability and the capacity to connect to God, but only through Jesus Christ.
 - ii) Christ's death paid our sin debt, allowing us to be forgiven of our sin.

iii) In Christ, we are able to worship Him and bring Him His due glory.

Conclusion

God has created man in His image. The greatest impact of this is the ability to worship God. Don't delay, respond to His gospel calling!

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