



Why God Created Humanity – Pt. 4

Bishop Steve Norman

Bible Study – 9/11/2025

As we delve deeper into this series exploring the reasons behind humanity's creation, we will keep this concept at the forefront of our minds throughout our study.

Isaiah 28:9-10: "Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little."

The phrase "image of God" in the book of Genesis.

Genesis 1:26–27 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." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 5:1–3 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.

Genesis 9:6: "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

By examining the above scriptures, we can gain insights into the meaning of the phrase "let us make man in our own image" and understand its significance within the biblical context.

Genesis 1:26-27 states that God declared, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." This verse emphasizes the idea of humans being created to reflect divine qualities. Humanity is given dominion over various aspects of creation.

Genesis 5:1–3 continues this theme, stating, **"When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God."** This passage also notes that Adam, after living 130 years, fathered Seth, highlighting the continuation of human lineage in the image of God.

Genesis 9:6 emphasizes the intrinsic value of human life, stating that **"whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image."** This verse underscores the seriousness of taking human life and reflects the belief that since humanity is created in God's image, there is a sacredness to all human life that must be respected.

The theory of the Image of God as Physical Form or Appearance:

The idea of the "image of God" has changed over time. This shift stems from examining the Hebrew word for "image," which is "tselem." In ancient times, "tselem" was often linked to idols, suggesting a focus on physical



representations. In Genesis 1:26–27, "tselem" is introduced alongside another term, "demuth," which means "likeness."

"tselem" (Image) doesn't only refer to physical objects in the Old Testament. For example, in Psalm 39:7, it's talked about as a "shadow," and in Psalm 73:20, it's described as a "phantom."

So, it's more likely that "tselem" represents a kind of "representation" of God (an ambassador), rather than saying God has to be shown in a physical form.

Image of God as a Physical or Mental Attribute:

The concept of the "image of God" can be viewed as a unique characteristic that all humans share, highlighting essential qualities such as intelligence, emotions, and the capacity to think and communicate. However, if we only focus on these traits, it can be tricky to fully understand what the image of God means, especially when it comes to ethical questions about human life.

When we discuss the image of God in relation to our spiritual side, we are exploring the inner motivations and capacities that draw us closer to God. This encompasses elements such as believing in God, seeking to understand Him better, engaging in prayer, and discerning right from wrong. Just like our physical and mental abilities, these spiritual inclinations may not be present in every person at all times or in the same way. Furthermore, since God says, **"Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness,"** it is clear that the image of God cannot refer solely to physical and mental attributes.

At times, the Hebrew preposition translated "in" can mean "as," which denotes function or status: this means that it can be said that humanity was created "as" the image of God. Humans are created as God's imagers—they function as God's representatives.

According to this view, the image of God is not a quality within human beings; it is what humans are. Every human, regardless of their stage of development, is an imager of God.

Jesus as the Image of God:

One of the meanings of the phrase "image of God" means that people are created as God's image—or, as His imagers (**Gen 1:27**). The image of God language in the New Testament brings this into focus: Jesus is described as God's imager, and believers are to image Christ.

Two passages refer to Jesus as the image of God: **2 Corinthians 4:4** and **Colossians 1:15**.

2 Corinthians 4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

These passages speak of the incarnation of Christ—the eternal God becoming a human being.

Philippians 2:5-7 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Believers are destined to be conformed to the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ.



Romans 8:29-30 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. **30** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Glorification is a process.

2 Corinthians 3:18 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 by the Spirit of the Lord.

This language is a call to act as Jesus would, living in a manner that reflects Him. Acting like Jesus refers to the practical idea of the image of God, suggesting that we view the image of God as a verbal concept.

This idea suggests that, just as Jesus embodied God's likeness, individuals are called to reflect Christ's likeness as well. This act of reflection plays a vital role in fulfilling the purpose of human creation, as stated in **Genesis 1:27**, which indicates that humans are made in the image of God.

The process of transforming into this image is recognized as a gradual one. In **2 Corinthians 3:18**, it is highlighted that believers, with their faces uncovered, are reflecting the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, a work attributed to the Holy Spirit.

Divine imaging will extend beyond earthly life. In **1 Corinthians 15:49**, Paul states that just as humans have been made in the image of the earthly man, they shall also be made in the image of the heavenly one.