



Why did God create Humanity: Made in The Image of God - Pt. 2

The Obvious Meaning of the Image of God

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Genesis 1:26-28 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." **27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Last week, after examining the concept of the image of God, we reached one conclusion that remains consistent with the Genesis passages regarding the image of God.

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 imager.

In other words, they are created to function as God’s representatives or ambassadors here on the earth. The apostle Paul reiterates this when he discusses believers as ambassadors. **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.**

- **Representing Christ:** An ambassador's actions, words, and character are meant to embody and reflect the leader they represent, and in the same way, believers embody Christ.
- **A Lifestyle, Not Just a Job:** Being an ambassador for Christ is not a part-time role or a formal job, but rather a lifestyle that should permeate every aspect of a believer's life.
- **Authority of the Sender:** As ambassadors, Christians act with the authority of the one who sent them—God—rather than their own.

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 imager (**Genesis 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 describe the incarnation of Christ, the eternal God, who became 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.

So, we see Christ coming in the appearance of a man but functioning in the image of God.

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.

This 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.

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 as the image of God.

The process of transforming to reflect His 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. **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.**

It is believed that this 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. **1 Corinthians 15:48-49 (NLT) 48 Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. 49 Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.**

This points to a future fulfillment of the transformation into Christ's total likeness, which extends beyond earthly existence.