

**Made in God's Image**  
**Genesis 1:26-31**  
**April 20, 2008**

- I. Introduction
  - A. The vital importance of understanding man as the image of God
    - 1. Calvin begins his Institutes with this thought
      - a. first section: Without knowledge of self there is no knowledge of God
      - b. second section: Without knowledge of God there is no knowledge of self
    - 2. to properly understand the doctrines of God, Christ, salvation, etc., you must understand who you are in relationship to the Creator
    - 3. this begins with understanding what it means to be created in the image of God
  - B. Impacts our understanding of creation, fall, redemption, and consummation
- II. Created in the image of God
  - A. Mankind – the crowning glory of Creation
    - 1. exalted place in the order of creation
    - 2. exalted plan in the order of creation (vv. 26-27)
    - 3. All of creation reflects something of God's glory and character (Ps. 19:1)
    - 4. But men and women do more than reflect something about God – they are the image of God
  - B. What it means to be created in the image of God
    - 1. dominion over the rest of creation (vv. 26, 28)
      - a. to work and to keep the garden (2:15)
      - b. naming the creatures (2:19-20)
      - c. all in submission to God, as his stewards (2:16-17)
    - 2. image of the Creator
      - a. multiply and fill the earth (v. 28)
      - b. ordering of the creation (v. 2:19-20)
      - c. rational, moral, free, personal creatures after the image of the Creator
    - 3. men and women made for relationship
      - a. not good that man should be alone (2:18)
      - b. emphasis on creating man male and female (1:27)
      - c. two become one flesh (2:23-24)
    - 4. this need for relationship specially reflected in the communion between God and humans
      - a. his concern for man's loneliness (2:18)
      - b. his provision for man's needs – food (2:16-17) and relationship (2:21-22)
      - c. God's special communion with Adam and Eve (2:8-9; Ps. 8:4)
    - 5. even the special importance of the human body
      - a. temptation – to limit the image of God to our creative and intellectual capacities
      - b. David understood the human body to be fearfully and wonderfully designed by God (Ps. 139:13-17)
      - c. The incarnation, death, and resurrection of Christ emphasizes the importance of the human body

*Hebrews 10:3-5* <sup>3</sup> But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin every year. <sup>4</sup> For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. <sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;
      - d. The glory of the resurrected body

*1 Corinthians 15:44, 49* <sup>44</sup> *It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.* <sup>49</sup> *Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*

6. all of our being is made in the image of God and created to love and glorify God (Dt. 6:5)

### C. The Image of God and the Fall

1. the image tarnished
  - a. dominion frustrated – creation rebels (3:17-19)
  - b. creative order disrupted – pain in childbirth (3:16)
  - c. relationships with other humans become difficult
    - i. enmity between seed of woman and seed of serpent (3:15)
    - ii. enmity between husband and wife (3:16 and 4:7)
  - d. relationship with God broken (3:23-24)
  - e. body returns to the ground (3:19; esp. 2:17)
2. image tarnished but not erased
  - a. *Romans 1:21* <sup>21</sup> *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*
  - b. Schaeffer, *Death in the City*, 80: “man has known the truth and deliberately turned away from it . . . man is not caught in the wheels of determinism . . . he can influence history for himself and for others”
  - c. Men and women are not robots but were created with the freedom and the ability to subdue creation for the glory of God

## III. Redeemed after the image of God

### A. God breathes life into us

1. God created man by breathing life into Adam (2:7)
2. By his resurrection, Jesus became life-giving Spirit (I Cor. 15:45)
3. redemption and regeneration = breathing new life into dead corpses (Ezekiel 37)

### B. New life after the image of God

1. the image of God and knowledge (Col. 3:1-10)
  - a. put off the old self and put on the new self (v. 10)
  - b. how? you have been raised with Christ, and your life is hidden with Christ in God (vv. 1-3)
  - c. how does Paul describe the new self? “*renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator*” v. 10
2. the image of God and righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:17-24)
  - a. the context: you have been made alive in Christ (Eph. 2:1-8)
  - b. therefore, put off the old man and put on the new man (vv. 22-24)
  - c. how does Paul describe the new self? “*created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness*” v. 24
  - d. → “be renewed in the spirit of your minds” (v. 23)
3. the image of God, recreated in the redeemed, means that Christians grow in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness after the image of their Creator

### C. Application

1. dignity of all men and women
2. optimism in the new man
3. anticipation of the glorified man and woman