

## Created in God's Image

### Genesis 1:26-28; Colossians 3:9-10

#### Introduction

When you represent someone, everything you do reflects on that person. God created humanity to represent Him and to declare His glory. The command to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:26) was a command to spread God's glory as His image-bearers to the ends of the earth. Sadly, we abdicated this high calling, bringing shame upon the image of God.

God lovingly created humanity in his image to display His glory through our enjoyment of Him. Sadly, we've failed in our task of representing Him. Sin has shattered the image of God in us. We have rebelled from God's loving rule, pursuing our own enjoyment and glory. Thankfully, through His Son, God restores what we have wrecked.

Thankfully, our failure is not the end of the story. Through the work of His Son, God is in the process of restoring what we ruined.

#### I. We Are A \_\_\_\_\_ Image Bearers of God (Gen. 1:26-28, 3:1-24)

God lovingly created us in His image to display His glory through our enjoyment of Him. There are implications to this truth.

- We are \_\_\_\_\_ to Him
- We can \_\_\_\_\_ Him
- Each person has great \_\_\_\_\_.
- We have a God-centered \_\_\_\_\_.
- He intends for us to find our greatest \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

As the story of the Bible unfolds we see that humanity chose rebellion over living under God's loving rule. Nevertheless, humanity bears the image of God, no matter how distorted.

#### Application: As an image-bearer you have great:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

We must admit that our sin has distorted the image of God within us. Our only remedy for this is our redemption in Jesus Christ.

#### II. Jesus Can \_\_\_\_\_ What Man Has Distorted (Col. 3:9-10)

## **Application:**

Someday we will once again accurately reflect God's glory as we fully enjoy Him. Jesus has already purchased this promise. It is our task to practice what Christ has already accomplished. As believers we measure our growth by our increasing Christ-likeness. This is our goal. This truth also motivates us to be messengers of reconciliation in a world fragmented by sin.

## **Conclusion**

You were created to enjoy God and reflect His glory. You and I made shipwreck of that holy calling. Yet, God lovingly acted to redeem and restore us in Jesus Christ. Our only fitting response is to turn from life in Adam and, by faith, walk in our new life in Christ. As believers we are called to be ministers of reconciliation. Unbelievers, you are called to be reconciled to our loving God.

- 1. Are you an image bearer of God in the \_\_\_\_\_ God has given you dominion?**
- 2. We become what we \_\_\_\_\_! (Jeremiah 2:5)**
- 3. Being an image bearer is not \_\_\_\_\_.**
- 4. When we stop \_\_\_\_\_ as image bearers, we treat other image bearers as \_\_\_\_\_ to be exploited.**