

Who are You? And Where are You Going?

Genesis 1:26-31

I. Formed bearing the “image” of the Creator

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.”

Genesis 5:3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

a. Giving inherent dignity and intrinsic value

Genesis 2:7 ...then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

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

Psalms 139:13-14 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

b. Reflecting the attributes of the Creator

Characteristics of bearing the image & likeness

- 1) Rationality – an intelligence
- 2) Sense of time – past, present, future
- 3) Language – abstract communication
- 4) Emotions -complex and many
- 5) Self-awareness – humble confidence in relation to others
- 6) Morality – sense of right & wrong
- 7) Spirituality – relating to God
- 8) Volition – self-determination
- 9) Creativity – innovate, form, fashion
- 10) Appreciation – goodness, beauty, truth, a growing gratitude

c. Making relationships possible & essential

Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

d. Directing the stewardship of life

Genesis 1:28 "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion..."

Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

"...all things in the world, one way or another, center in the usefulness for man; some to feed him, some to clothe him, some to delight him, some to instruct him, some to exercise his wit, and others his strength."

Stephen Charnock (1628-1680)
...quoted from *The Existence and Attributes of God*

II. Deformed by the fall into sin

a. Sin brings separation and enmity

Galatians 5:19-20 ...the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy,...

James 3:7-9 ...no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

Romans 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

b. Sin compromises our thinking and rationality

Romans 1:21b-22 ...they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools...

Genesis 3:11-12 [God]said [to Adam], "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

New Testament words that describe the ruin of man's intellectual capacity

<i>debased</i>	<i>hardened</i>	<i>blinded</i>	<i>futility</i>	
	<i>darkened</i>	<i>hostile</i>	<i>deluded</i>	<i>deceived</i>
<i>Sensuous</i>	<i>depraved</i>	<i>corrupted</i>	<i>defiled</i>	

c. Sin brings a cursed existence

Genesis 3:17b-19 ...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23 What has a man from all his toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

d. Sin brings death

Romans 5:12 Sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sin.

e. Yet, by grace, the “image” is not entirely erased

Corruption of the Fall on the characteristics of the original image & likeness

- 1) Rationality → irrational thinking, foolishness, ultimately a debased mind
- 2) Sense of time → forgetfulness, lack of planning
- 3) Language → compromised communication, we give & take offence, misunderstand
- 4) Emotions → defensiveness, anxiety, anger, resentment, bitterness, hatred
- 5) Self-awareness → prideful insecurities, self-centeredness, insecurity, vanity
- 6) Morality → compromise, inversion of good & evil, rejection of authority, hypocrisy
- 7) Spirituality → enmity with God, with others, with self
- 8) Volition → do wrong & fail to do right, enslaved to sin
- 9) Creativity → destructive, detrimental, ugly
- 10) Appreciation → resentment, jealousy, envy, ingratitude

Genesis 9:6 [To Noah, after the flood] “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in His own image.

Genesis 5:29 ...called his name Noah, saying “Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.”

Isaiah 43:6-7 I will say to the north, “Give them up!” and to the south, “Do not hold them back.” Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth – everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

Psalms 8:3-6a When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands...

III. Transformed by grace through faith in Christ

Colossians 1:15 [Jesus Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Romans 5:19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of the mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Ephesians 4:21-24 ...assuming that you have heard about Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:1-3 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we renounce disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's Word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

2 Corinthians 4:4-6 In their case, the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.