



One Sabbath, when he went in to eat at the house of one of the leading Pharisees, they were watching him closely. ² There in front of him was a man whose body was swollen with fluid. ³ In response, Jesus asked the law experts and the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" ⁴ But they kept silent. He took the man, healed him, and sent him away.

Luke 14 ⁵ And to them, he said, "Which of you whose son or ox falls into a well, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?" ⁶ They could find no answer to these things.

on the Sabbath, ¹¹ a woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for over eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called out to her, "Woman, you are free of your disability." ¹³ Then he laid his hands on her, and instantly she was restored and began to glorify God.

¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, responded by telling the crowd, "There are six days when work should be done; therefore come on those days and be healed and not on the Sabbath day."

15 But the Lord answered him and said, "Hypocrites! Doesn't each one of you untie his ox or donkey from the feeding trough on the Sabbath and lead it to water?" Satan has bound this woman, a daughter of Abraham, for eighteen years — shouldn't she be untied from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" 17 When he had said these things, all his adversaries were humiliated, but the whole crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things he was doing.

- WHY WERE WE CREATED?
- WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT MEN AND WOMEN ARE "IMAGE BEARERS"?
- HOW DID THE FALL AFFECT OUR SPECIAL STATUS OF "IMAGE BEARERS"?
- WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTIANS?
- DOES GOD LOVE SOME PEOPLE MORE THAN OTHERS?

 OR, ARE SOME PEOPLE BETTER THAN LUKE14

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WHY WERE WE CREATED?

Isaiah 43

⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back!' Bring my sons from far away, and my daughters from the ends of the earth — ' everyone who bears my name and is created for my glory. I have formed them; indeed, I have made them."

WHY WERE WE CREATED?

Isaiah 43
21 The people I formed for myself will declare my praise.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT WE ARE "IMAGE BEARERS"?

Genesis 1

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT WE ARE "IMAGE BEARERS"?

- WE ARE LIKE GOD
- WE REPRESENT GOD

It would be good for us to reflect on our likeness to God more often. It will probably amaze us to realize that when the Creator of the universe wanted to create something "in his image," something more like himself than all the rest of creation, he made us.

This realization will give us a profound sense of dignity and significance as we reflect on the excellence of all the rest of God's creation: the starry universe, the abundant earth, the world of plants and animals, and the angelic kingdoms are remarkable, even magnificent.

But we are more like our Creator than any of these things. We are the culmination of God's infinitely wise and skillful work of creation. Even though sin has greatly marred that likeness, we nonetheless now reflect much of it and shall even more as we grow in likeness to Christ.

Yet we must remember that even fallen, sinful man has the **status** of being in God's image (see discussion of Gen. 9:6, above). Every single human being, no matter how much the image of God is marred by sin, or illness, or weakness, or age, or any other disability, still has the status of being in God's image and therefore must be treated with the dignity and respect that is due to God's image-bearer.

This has profound implications for our conduct toward others. It means that people of every race deserve equal dignity and rights. It means that elderly people, those seriously ill, the mentally retarded, and children yet unborn, deserve full protection and honor as human beings.

If we ever deny our unique status in creation as God's only image-bearers, we will soon begin to depreciate the value of human life, will tend to see humans as merely a higher form of animal, and will begin to treat others as such. We will also lose much of our sense of meaning in life.

Grudem, W. A. (2004). Systematic theology: an introduction to biblical doctrine (pp. 449–450). Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House.



Genesis 9

⁴ However, you must not eat meat with its lifeblood in it. ⁵ And I will require a penalty for your lifeblood; I will require it from any animal and from any human; if someone murders a fellow human, I will require that person's life. ⁶ Whoever sheds human blood, by humans his blood will be shed, for God made humans in his image.

James 3

⁷ Every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish is tamed and has been tamed by humankind, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in God's likeness.

James 3

Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way. 11 Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers and sisters, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water.

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Matthew 10

Therefore, don't be afraid of them, since there is nothing covered that won't be uncovered and nothing hidden that won't be made known.

What I tell you in the dark, speak in the light. What you hear in a whisper, proclaim on the housetops.

Matthew 10

Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head have all been counted. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTIANS?

2 Corinthians 3

We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTIANS?

Colossians 3

⁸ But now, put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTIANS?

Colossians 3

11 In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.

DOES GOD LOVE SOME PEOPLE MORE THAN OTHERS?

John 3

16 For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

BENEVOLENT LOVE:

- ATTITUDE
- ACTION

DOES GOD LOVE SOME PEOPLE MORE THAN OTHERS?

Uncritically satisfied with oneself or one's achievements; smug.

Apathetic with regard to an apparent need or problem.

COMPLACENT LOVE:

Mark 10

17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not defraud; honor your father and mother."

Mark 10

He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth." ²¹ Looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, "You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² But he was dismayed by this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.

"There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.

This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption."

CS Lewis (The Weight of Glory)

DOES GOD LOVE SOME PEOPLE MORE THAN OTHERS?

Psalm 100

¹ Let the whole earth shout triumphantly to the Lord! ² Serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. ³ Acknowledge that the Lord is God. He made us, and we are his — his people, the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name.

DOES GOD LOVE SOME PEOPLE MORE THAN OTHERS?

Psalm 100
⁵ For the Lord is good, and his faithful love endures forever; his faithfulness, through all generations.

