

This is a **foundational, discipleship-shaping**, and it lands right where theology meets everyday life

What does it mean to be created in God's image?

Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; so God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:26–27 NKJV

Being made in God's image does **not** mean we look like **God physically**. Scripture is clear: God is Spirit. It means we were created to **reflect Him**

We were created to represent God

In the ancient world, an “**image**” of a king represented his authority in a region. God places humans in creation as His representatives

We are image-bearers who reflect God's rule through: stewardship, moral responsibility, and purposeful work, and so much more....

We were created for Relationships

God exists eternally in relationship: Father, Son, and Spirit

To be made in His image means we were created for a relationship with God, and relationship with one another

It is not good that man should be alone. Genesis 2:18 NKJV

Isolation damages the image; love for God and each other reflects it

The image was marred, Not Lost

Sin distorted the image, but it didn't erase it. **For in the image of God He made man Genesis 9:6 NKJV**

Even after the fall, humans still bear God's image, though cracked and bent (my truck)

However, redemption is possible through and in Jesus

Three Parts – Body, Soul, and Spirit

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV

We are more than what we see

Most of the world treats humans like **upgraded animals, body only**

Others drift into **spiritual mysticism** and forget we live in real, physical bodies. Scripture refuses both extremes

The Bible presents a **whole person**

- A **body** that connects us to the physical world
- A **soul** that defines our personality and inner life
- A **spirit** that connects us to God

God doesn't **redeem us in pieces**. He sanctifies us **completely**

The Body, our physical stewardship

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7 NKJV

The body is **formed by God**, not an **accident of biology**

It is the instrument through which we live out obedience

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 1 Corinthians 6:19 NKJV

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:20 NKJV

Some Biblical truths about the body

It is **temporary**, but valuable, It is not evil, **Genesis 1:31 NKJV** but fallen, It is meant for worship, service, and obedience

If the body is all you feed, you'll starve spiritually

If you ignore the body entirely, you'll burn out fast

Stewardship matters, sleep, rest, discipline, purity. God cares how we treat the house He lives in

The Soul – The seat of the inner Life

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Matthew 16:26 NKJV

The **soul** includes the mind, will, emotions, personality, literally it's what makes *you* – *you*

This is where battles rage: fear, desire, shame, hope, resolve

Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God. Psalm 42:5 NKJV

Notice this: The psalmist **talks to his soul**. Your soul needs leadership, not permission to spiral

The soul must be shaped, not indulged. Renewed thinking, disciplined choices, surrendered emotions.

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind Romans 12:2 NKJV

...bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ 2 Corinthians 10:5 NKJV

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. Philippians 4:8 NKJV

If you're exhausted, angry, numb, or distracted, **don't just blame circumstances**

Ask yourself, what's happening in my soul? What am I allowing?

The Spirit – this is our God-connection

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4:24 NKJV

The **spirit** is the deepest part of a person; this is the place of God-consciousness

Before Christ, the spirit is dead to God. After salvation, it is made alive

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins. Ephesians 2:1 NKJV

This is where: The **Holy Spirit dwells**, conviction happens, worship becomes real, our prayers become relational. My spirit is talking to the spirit of God

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Romans 8:16 NKJV

Your spirit doesn't need entertainment; it needs **communion** with the creator

Word, prayer, worship, obedience. No shortcuts!!!!!!

How do they work together

Here's the simplified picture: **The spirit** connects to God, **The soul** decides direction **The body** carries it out

When the spirit leads, the soul aligns, and the body obeys, and **life just works**

When the body rules, the **soul follows cravings**, and the **spirit is silenced**, **chaos follows**

Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Galatians 5:16 NKJV

This is not perfection, but it's God-created **order**

God wants all of You (us) - God **doesn't just want your Sunday morning worship**

He wants your **Monday body**, your **Tuesday thoughts**, your **Wednesday emotions**, your **Thursday habits**, your **Friday desires**, your **Saturday rest**, and your forever spirit with Him

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. Mark 12:30 NKJV

That's not pressure, that's freedom

You don't need a new personality, you don't need a new body, you don't need a new soul

We need a **rightly ordered life under the lordship of Christ**

God of peace—sanctify us **completely**

Think about your smartphone

It has **three essential parts** that must work together

The Body – The Hardware

The body is **formed by God**, not an accident of biology

The body is like the phone itself, **the screen, battery, camera, and buttons**

It's what you can see and touch

If the phone is cracked, dead, or neglected, it won't work well, no matter how good the apps are

You can have the best intentions, but if the battery is at 1%, nothing's happening

Our soul – the Operating System

The soul is like the operating system, the iOS or Android

Remember, the **soul** includes the mind, will, emotions, personality, literally it's what makes *you – you*

It controls how the phone functions: speed, settings, responses, and priorities

If the OS is outdated, full of glitches, or overloaded with junk, the phone acts weird

Freezes, Crashes, Responds slowly, Does things you didn't ask it to do

That's the soul when it's unmanaged, unfiltered thoughts, unchecked emotions, impulsive decisions

The Spirit – the signal or connection

The spirit is the signal, Wi-Fi or cellular connection

The **spirit** is the deepest part of a person; this is the place of God-consciousness

Without a connection, the phone still exists, but it can't access what gives it purpose

No signal means - no **messages**, no **GPS direction**, no **updates**, no real-time **communication**

A disconnected phone is basically an expensive paperweight

How they work together - When the connection is strong (spirit), The system runs smoothly (soul), and the hardware responds properly (body)

But if the phone has: A great signal but a broken screen, A perfect body but no connection, or good hardware with a corrupted system - we get frustration instead of function as intended

Same with us. God didn't design you to be run by impulses (body), emotions (soul), or instincts alone

He designed you to be: **Connected** to Him (spirit), **Renewed** in your inner life (soul), **Disciplined** in how you live (body)

When all three work together, life doesn't get perfect, but it **starts to make sense**

When your spirit is connected to God, your soul is aligned with truth, and your body obedient in action, life finally runs the way God designed it to

That is why the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ are so important