

Love^{and} Marriage

Lesson 1: Love in God's Image

Questions & Objectives

- Why is God's Image important when thinking about love – how does it relate?
- What is the Biblical definition of love, and why is it important to build on this foundation, rather than another definition?
- What role do our emotions play in love?

Lesson 1

Made in His Image

²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness, to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, and over all the earth itself and every creature that crawls upon it."

*²⁷So 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 (BSB)

The Bible places mankind – male and female – as the pinnacle of all God's creation. It wasn't "very good" until mankind was created.

Why do you think this was?

What does it mean to be made in the image of God?



Love and Marriage

Lesson 1: Love in God's Image

WATCH

[Video: What does it mean when God said, "Let Us make man in Our image"](#)

(Credit: Got Questions Ministries)

According to the video:

1. We are fashioned to resemble and _____ God on the earth.
2. As image-bearers of God, we have the capacity for _____ with God and other humans; as well as being endowed with reason, intelligence, speech, moral consciousness, creativity, rationality, and choice.
3. God using the plural masculine, "Let **us** make man in **our** image and in **our** likeness" shows us that harmonious relationship _____ God and His image.

Why is it so important for us to start with and understand that we are made in the image of God?

Marc Cortez, in his book, Theological Anthropology, has argued that _____ (essence) determines _____ (ethics), and how we live determines who we are. Personhood affects practice, and practice affects personhood.

In our current culture, what two things vie to be the defining characteristic of our identity?

- _____
- _____

These things don't define who we are, but rather _____ we are.

What truly defines who we are as Christians, is Christ:

For in Him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are His offspring.' – Acts 17:28 (BSB)

According to Dr. Christopher Yuan, defining ourselves by what we _____ or do is actually an attempted "coup d'état" against our Creator.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. – Galatians 3:28 (BSB)



Love and Marriage

Lesson 1: Love in God's Image

ANY MODIFIER YOU PLACE BEFORE "CHRISTIAN" IS INCORRECT, BECAUSE IT USURPS AUTHORITY AND TAKES PROMINENCE OVER CHRIST. YOU ARE SIMPLY A CHRISTIAN.

REFLECTION Being made in His image means that my identity is no longer defined by my:

Falling In (and Out of) Love

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

- Genesis 2:24 (BSB); see also Matt. 19:5, Mark 10:7, Eph. 5:31

From a Biblical perspective, why is the advice to "follow your heart" problematic?

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

- Proverbs 14:12; 16:25 (NIV)

What is love?

WATCH

[Video: Agape - Love](#)

(Credit: BibleProject)

1. Agape Love is defined by _____.
2. Agape Love also means seeking others' well-being without _____ anything in return.
3. The ultimate standard of true love is how you love your _____.



Love and Marriage

Lesson 1: Love in God's Image

As image-bearers of God, we are capable of loving as God loved us.

¹⁰And love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

- 1 John 4:10-11 (BSB)

The Wise Mind

Can we trust our heart? Are our emotions bad?

In what ways can our emotions help us?

Diagram the "Wise Mind" model. Update it to reflect the "Christian Mind" model.

WE'RE CALLED TO LEAD OUR EMOTIONS – NOT BE LED BY THEM.

*Bring everything into subjection to Christ – thoughts, words, deeds, and your emotions.
In other words, your identity is now in Christ.*

List two benefits of leading your emotions.



Love^{and} Marriage

Lesson 1: Love in God's Image

Wrap-Up

We learned that we are made in the _____ of God, and that the foundation of our _____ must be built on this Truth.

Agape love is the ultimate definition of love, and it implies _____.

We learned about _____ our emotions, rather than be led by them.

.

Follow-Through

Meditate

¹Be imitators of God, therefore, as beloved children, ²and walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant sacrificial offering to God.

- Ephesians 5:1-2

How does my understanding and perception of my own identity inform the manner in which I love?

Act

Consider how you can imitate God and share His love with someone this week, then do it!

