

Reflecting on The Image of God in Man – Part 1

September 24, 2023

DISCUSS

- 1) **Read Psalm 139:12-17.** These verses reveal that God knows us better than we know ourselves. Discuss your reaction to this reality: Does God's all-surpassing and intimate knowledge of you encourage you, intimidate you, or frustrate you?

- 2) **Read Acts 17:24-28.** In these verses, Paul emphasizes both God's separateness from people as well as His closeness to them. Explain how being created in God's image (as opposed to being gods ourselves) actually enhances our value, purpose, and enjoyment in life.

3) **Read Jeremiah 29:11-13 and Isaiah 55:6-9.** Both of these passages explain that our “best lives” on this earth are experienced when we trust God as our sovereign and seek His will. Have you found this to be true in your own life? Why is it so difficult for humans to accept this reality?

4) **Read Nehemiah 9:6.** This verse comes at the beginning of a prayer of repentance (cf. vss. 32-38). Explain how acknowledging God as Creator leads us to understand our guilt and sin before Him. Why is repentance so critical to an enjoyable life?

5) **Read Colossians 3:9-10.** Trusting in Jesus for salvation enables people to experience creation in God’s image in a brand new way; that is, they find it possible to “put-off” old sins that used to dominate them and “put-on” new habits that previously eluded them.

- What practices have you stopped or started since you believed the gospel?

- According to Colossians 3:10, what helps believers grow according to the transformation Christ has worked in their hearts? What are some practical ways you can renew your knowledge in your Creator?

LIVE

We live in a world where people simply lack purpose and fulfillment in life. This week, remind your friends and neighbors of their intrinsic value as human beings created in God's image. Perform an intentional act of kindness, and be sure to communicate the basic human need for God as well as His love for them.

For example, you could bring your neighbor some vegetables from your garden and leave a note explaining that you appreciate your neighbor because he or she is created in God's image. This could be stated as simply as, "God loves you, and we do too." Look for various ways to show God's love and share the gospel this week.

PRAY

Close your Life Group praising the Lord for the unmatched blessings that are found in a relationship with Him. (Note: You may need to spend some time listing out these blessings as a group before you pray.) 😊