



**QUOTE** from “Do You Believe?” by Paul David Tripp

**Definition:** “After God had made all other creatures, he created people, male and female. He designed them with reasonable and mortal souls, and he endowed them with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after his own image. Adam and Eve had the law of God written in their hearts and were created with the power to fulfill it, but also with the possibility of transgressing. They had the liberty of their own will, which was subject to change. Besides the law that was written in their hearts, God commanded them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. While they obeyed this command, they were happy in their communion with God.”

How does understanding the fact that we are created in the image of God, solve many of our social problems including injustice, disrespect of women, abortion, immorality, racism, and toxic relationships?

## SCRIPTURE ON THE IMAGE OF GOD IN MAN

Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7; 3:6; 5:3; 9:6

Eccles. 7:26

Acts 17:26-28

Rom. 2:14-15; 8:29

I Cor. 11:7

II Cor. 3:18

Eph. 4:23-34

Col. 3:10

James 3:9

## DOCTRINE OF THE IMAGE OF GOD IN MAN

- **Teaches us that we were created to worship.**

What do we tend to worship as fallen creatures today?

- **Teaches us that we were created for relationships.**

How does God’s pattern for relationships compare with the relationships we are in today?

- **Teaches us that we were created to glorify God.**

What does it mean to glorify God?

## WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE IMAGE OF GOD IN MAN?

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From early childhood, Josh was convinced he didn't matter, that he had no value. He was shuttled from foster home to foster home, never quite sure why he was leaving one and arriving at another. He had no idea who his natural mom was and there was never any thought of his father. In most of the foster homes, he was seen as different from the other children who lived there, and in many of the homes he suffered some kind of abuse. With learning difficulties, school reinforced his experience of being different, of being in the way, and not mattering. Convinced he was an outcast, he lived like one. Josh's story is too complicated and too tragic to fully tell here, but everything about his life would have been different if he had learned the full meaning of the value imparted by the words “made in the image of God.”

How can we help Josh understand the worth that he has as having the image of God in him?

Sam was determined to make something of himself, no matter what. His parents had been poor, but Sam refused to be. He was athletic and was awarded a college scholarship. He studied hard, so he excelled both athletically and academically. Graduation didn't mean much to Sam apart from the fact that it was a necessary step to doing what he really wanted to do: make money. Material success was where Sam would find identity. He wanted it all: big house, flashy cars,

country club membership, lavish vacations, and a beautiful wife. He was determined to let nothing get in his way. Sam did get married and have children, but he never felt satisfied. No success was enough. Material success as an identity is a cruel master, never delivering what was promised. In business, Sam was highly successful, but he made a mess out of his personal life. His wife finally walked away, and as his children grew up, they had little time for him.

What does Sam need to understand about the value of a person because he has the image of God in him?

Looking at another pile of dirty clothes, Sarah wondered to herself. “Is this who I am?” She had done well in college and had a bright future. Tim seemed to complete the dream. Married right after college, Sarah worked for a while, but then the children came. One, two, three, and then four. Four children under the age of six, and the work was never done. She dragged herself out of bed every morning, exhausted from the day before, having no time to take care of herself because a child was always needing some kind of help. She hated looking into the mirror and didn't find much joy in the monotonous duties each day brought. She watched those beautiful ladies on TV and didn't feel like she had much worth.

How can Sarah be encouraged about her identity because of the fact that God's image is in her?