

# Sermon Study Guide – October 5, 2025

Greetings!

We're continuing our series about the church. In the past few weeks I've proposed a definition of the church based on taking the whole of the Bible into consideration:

The Church is

- The people of God
- On the mission of God
- Becoming the image of God in Christ
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit

This week we're going to focus on the image of God. This is one of the most frequently misunderstood concepts, even by professional theologians. We'll demystify it and see how church is a pedagogical people, aimed at growing people up, not to be direct copy-paste of Jesus but mature in the ways he was according to our own characters.

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## Church is Becoming the Image of God

**OT: Genesis 1:26-28**

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

**Genesis 5:1** This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. **2** Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. **3** When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

**NT: Colossians 1:15-20**

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning,

the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

## Outline

**Introduction:**

**Definition:** The Church is the People of God on the Mission of God, Becoming the Image of God in Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit

**Foundation 1:** The image is the function of rulership according to character

**Foundation 2:** The image is male and female together, and the "body", not individuals only

**Foundation 3:** The image of Jesus is the character of God's rule

**Implication (So what?):** Church is about growing people's character toward that of Jesus in order to share in his authority

**Application (Now What?):** How is Grace of Christ a community in which people are growing each other up? How can we improve in this? What does maturity look like for you?

## Study Questions

**Foundations: What?**

1. How have you understood the image of God? What does the image as representation mean?
2. How does it work for the image to be individual-as-part-of-the-body and not just individual alone?
3. If Jesus is the image of God, what does that mean for Adam (cf. Rom 5)

**Implications: So What?**

4. Have you ever considered that God's call is toward responsibility?

**Applications: Now What?**

5. What are the next steps for you in your own process of growing mature in Christ?

## Prayer

Consider praying like Solomon, who prayed for wisdom in having a position of responsibility. And consider praying for God to raise up new generations of people passionate about growing up in Christ.