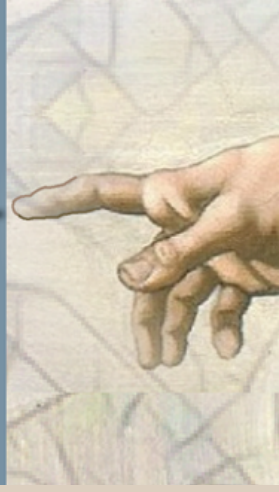




# IMAGE of GOD

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# Week 5: New Creation

In study #2 we saw from the following verse that Jesus himself is the true image of God.

### 2 Corinthians 4:4

"In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

We also know from our first study that each and every human being is created in God's image.

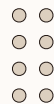
In this study we'll see how the Holy Spirit is at work in each believer transforming them to be like Christ. As with Genesis 1:26-28, in the NT, often the words "image" and "likeness" are used almost interchangeably.





1. What do the following verses tell us about the change that God works in us as believers in the present through the work of His Spirit?

2. How is that change described in each case and what will that actually look in terms of new behaviour? If it helps, find the verse(s) in your Bible and read the surrounding verses.



### **Romans 8:29**

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

### **2 Corinthians 3:18**

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.\*

\*Here, "the same image" from the previous verses refers to Jesus himself.

### **Ephesians 4:21-24**

21 assuming that you ..... were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

### **Colossians 3:5-10**

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.





Last week we learned from 1 Corinthians 15:49 that one day, at the sound of the last trumpet, with resurrected (heavenly) bodies we will bear the image of the man from heaven, Jesus. This reality is a source of great comfort and hope. We maybe tempted in the light of this to denigrate our current body as earthly; dust-like.

3. Why in the light of today's study would this be a serious mistake?

In seeking to answer this last question we're wanting to hold together a cluster of important ideas reflecting the Bible's teachings on the image of God:

- Every human being - made by God in His image.
- That reality - marred but not lost at the Fall
- Christ Jesus - the image of God
- Us being transformed day by day into Christ's image in our current body - thus we lean forwards towards the time when .....
- One day with new bodies we will bear the image of the heavenly man





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