

Sermon Guide and Discussion Questions

The Image of God: The Real NIL – Genesis 1:26-27

Sermon Outline

1. Introduction – illustration of NIL in college Sports
2. The Image of God Given – physical, responsibility, intellectual, character, and relational
3. The Image of God Corrupted
4. The Image of God Restored
5. Conclusion – because we are the image of God, we are to give God our very selves

Scripture Passages Referenced

- Genesis 1:2 - ...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters
- 1 John 4:8 – God is love.
- 1 John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
- Ecclesiastes 3:11 - he has put eternity into man's heart...
- Genesis 3 – the fall of mankind into sin
- Colossians 1:15 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
- Colossians 3:10 - ...and we have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of Christ.
- Ephesians 3:24 - and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
- Matthew 22:21 – Therefore render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and render unto God the things that are God's.

Discussion Questions

- How can we tell from reading Genesis 1 that mankind is the pinnacle of God's creation? What clues do we find in how Moses wrote this passage?
- What comes to mind when you hear the words 'the image of God'?
- Why is it crucial for us to realize that every single person is made in the image of God?
- How does the image of God relate to every person's dignity and worth?
- Which component of the image of God gives you the most encouragement?
- In what ways does the physical component of the image of God help us know more about God and how He relates to us?
- What is the connection between the image of God and our longing for relationships?
- What impact did the fall of mankind in Genesis 3 have on the image of God?
- What is Jesus' relation to the image of God?
- How does Jesus restore the image of God in those who come to Him in repentance and faith?
- How does Jesus' teaching in Matthew 22 further our understand of the image of God?
- Because we are the image of God, what are we to offer God?
- What are some practical ways you can offer God your very self this week?
- How does this passage and the notion of the image of God help you have a bigger view of God?
- How does this passage and the notion of the image of God help you realize the amazing work of the Lord Jesus Christ?
- How does this passage and sermon help you love God more, worship Him more deeply, and serve Him more faithfully?