

:: Summary

At the very beginning of the Bible, God's Word declares the value, dignity, worth and glory of every human being. Human beings are uniquely created in the image of God, the *Imago Dei* in Latin. This reality changes everything about the way we relate to others, work, care for the planet, and worship.

:: Share

What does it mean to you that you have been created in the image of God?

:: Explore and Discuss | Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 8:1-5

Read Genesis 1:1-25. Part of going deep in Scripture involves stepping back from the immediate text to see the way the writer of the text has been inspired by God to use things like layout, structure and literary devices to record the truths being conveyed. What do you notice the writer has done in these verses? How do the items on your list contribute to the overall impact of the truth conveyed?

Read Genesis 1:26-27. What do you notice about this text – what follows the same pattern, what is different? What is God saying or emphasizing?

In what ways are human beings meant to reflect (show likeness to) God? (list as many as you can)

Read Psalm 8. What are the implications of this text as well as the Genesis text for our stewardship?

:: Apply it to Your Life

Theologian N.T. Wright says we can think of the image of God in human beings like an angled mirror: *"It seems to me that God has put humans like an angled mirror in His world so that God can reflect His love and care and stewardship of the world through humans and so that the rest of the world can praise the creator through humans."* How does this idea help you personally consider how you are to live out the Imago Dei in you?

We will be thinking about this for the next two weeks: how does God intend for us to see every other human being, especially those who are different from us or whom we disagree with, in light of these truths? (try to go deep - there are some profound implications at stake here)

:: Pray



Take time to worship and honor God for being made in his image.

Consider confessing ways sin mars the image of God in you and ask the Holy Spirit's help in better reflecting God's likeness.

