

The background features a dark, wavy, abstract pattern in shades of blue and purple. Scattered throughout are several colorful circles in various sizes and colors, including pink, purple, blue, and orange.

# Good News, Bad News.... The Best News Ever!

Surveying the Doctrine of Humanity

# Wonder of Humanity

- Approximately 8.1 billion people currently live on Earth, with an estimated 121 billion who have ever lived.
- The average adult has between 28 to 36 trillion cells in their body.
- The likelihood of two people sharing identical fingerprints by chance is estimated to be less than one in 64 billion.
- We have finished sequencing 99% of the 3 billion bases of DNA that make up the human genome.
- Humans have landed on the moon, developed medicines and vaccines, as well as created remarkable technologies.

# Mosaic's Essential Beliefs

## Human Beings

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. All people were born marred by a state of disobedience toward God called "sin." This state and its resulting behaviors separate people from God. That separation will be eternal in a place called Hell unless all people are born-again by the spirit of God.

# “The Good”: In the Beginning

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.” So *God created man* in his own image, *in the image of God* he created him; male and female he created them. 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.”

(Gen. 1:26-28, ESV)

# “The Good”: In the Beginning

- then the LORD God *formed the man of dust from the ground* and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (Gen. 2:7)
- Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” (v. 18)
- And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is *bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh* she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” (vv. 22-23)
- Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. (vv. 24-25)

# The Good!

1. We are created beings (Gen. 1:27; 2:7; 21-22; Psalm 139:13-14)
2. We reflect the very “image” of God (*Imago Dei*).
3. We are given a purpose, to work with and have dominion over creation (Gen. 1:28; 2:15).
4. We are created to be in union with each other and with God (Gen. 1:28; 2:18; Matt. 19:4-6).
5. We are blessed & cared for by God (Gen. 1:28).
6. We are created to be “very good” (Gen. 1:31).

# Imago Dei: Reflecting the Trinity

1. **Uniqueness** – We are created as distinct and separate persons (design, order & purpose).
2. **Oneness** – We are designed to be in relationship with each other, as “one.” (one flesh, marriage, Body of Christ)
3. **Openness** – we are to openly and intimately communicate and relate to one another.

# Uniqueness

- For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (Psalm 139:13–14).
- Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Matt. 10:29-31)
- There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts. God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one body. (1 Cor. 12:12; 14; 18-20)

# Oneness

- “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may **all be one**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you...” (John 17:20-21))
- There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for **you are all one** in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)
- For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, **are one body** in Christ, and individually members one of another. (Rom. 12:4-5)

# Openness

- And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another... (Heb. 10:24-25)
- Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. (Eph. 4:29)
- Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal. 6:2)
- Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. (James 5:16)

# Theology of Imago Dei

- 1. *Dynamic Resemblance:*** reason, memory, will, emotions, language ability, an immaterial spirit, creativity and freedom, personality, relationality, self-consciousness, joy, and morality, culminating in the emergence of personal agency with good character (Bavinck, 2004; Berkhof, 1939; Erickson, 1983– 1985).
- 2. *Relational Resemblance:*** mutual love, trust, enjoyment, intimacy, dialogue, and cooperation of humans portray in creaturely ways the vigorous communion of the triune God, who is love (1 Jn 4:8, 16).
- 3. *Functional Resemblance:*** includes raising children and agriculture, but perhaps all human cultural activity is embedded in the commands of Genesis 1:28, including manufacturing, business, science, art, medicine, and so on. In all legitimate work, humans resemble God, for they picture something of his agency and resourcefulness.
- 4. *Purposeful Resemblance:*** Godly character – Requires renewal through God's righteousness due to sin. Christians are to become a new self that bears a greater resemblance to God than fallen humanity can, consisting of true knowledge, righteousness, and holiness of the truth.

# Implications of Imago Dei

1. We belong to God.
2. We should pattern ourselves after Jesus, the complete revelation of the image of God.
3. We experience full humanity only when we are properly related to God, **and by proxy to each other.**
4. Learning and work are good.
5. The human is valuable.
6. The image is universal in humankind.

(M. Erickson).



Image of God: The “Mosaic” of Humanity

# The Bad

- God has said, ‘You must not eat of it or touch it, or you will die.’ ” “You will not surely die,” the serpent told her. “For God knows that in the day you eat of it, your *eyes will be opened* and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Gen. 3:3) **Deceit**
- So she took some of its fruit and ate it...and he ate it. (v. 6) **Disobedience**
- And the *eyes of both of them were opened*, and they knew that they were naked (v. 7) **Shame**
- The man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God...and they hid themselves (v. 8) **Fear/anxiety**

# The Bad

- “Who told you that you were naked?” asked the LORD God. “Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” And the man answered, “*The woman whom You gave me*, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” (v. 3:11-12) **Externalizing**
- By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for *you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*” (v. 3:19) **Spiritually Dead**
- Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil. And now, lest he reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever...” Therefore the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden... (vv. 22-23) **Cursed!**

# Star Dust in Motion?

*You are dust, and to dust you shall return* (Gen. 3:19)

- “The nitrogen in our DNA, the calcium in our teeth, the iron in our blood, the carbon in our apple pies were made in the interiors of collapsing stars. We are made of star-stuff.”  
(Carl Sagan)
- "Do not feel lonely, the entire universe is inside you. Stop acting so small. You are the universe in ecstatic motion. Set your life on fire. Seek those who fan your flames." (Rumi)

# “In Adam”

“Therefore,...sin came into the world through one man... because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man” (Rom. 5:12;17)

- Sin as the inversion of the Imago Dei – “becoming like a god”
- Sin as enmity, strife, externalizing, vying for power and dominance, death.
- Sin as internal fragmentation – internal conflict, lack of identity.
- Sin as knowledge of good and evil – post fall dividedness against oneself (e.g., false selves as “good” vs. externalizing of “evil”).
- Sin as destructive wound – a corrupting, dissolving, destructive power.
- Sin as avoidance of God’s calling to be oneself – denial of who one is before God, self, and others.

# The Bad!

- “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” (Rom. 3:10)
- for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23)
- For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. *Against you, you only*, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. (Psalm 51:3-5, ESV)
- And *you were dead in the trespasses and sins* in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Eph. 2:1-3)

# 2020 CRIME CLOCK STATISTICS



<b>A Violent Crime occurred every</b>	<b>24.7 seconds</b>
One Murder every	24.4 minutes
One Rape every	4.2 minutes
One Robbery every	2.2 minutes
One Aggravated Assault every	34.3 seconds

<b>A Property Crime occurred every</b>	<b>4.9 seconds</b>
One Burglary every	30.5 seconds
One Larceny-theft every	6.9 seconds
One Motor Vehicle Theft every	39.0 seconds

# “Not the Way it is supposed to be”:

*There is no aspect of our existence where sin does not exist.*

- We are born imperfect...broken in some fundamental way that defies our best efforts or intentions.
- Some people are born predisposed to illnesses, addiction, and even violence.
- Relationships are difficult...something is always in the way.
- Our “innate” tendency is to please the “self” and rebel against God.
- God ordains (not condones) sin so that his glory can be made evident.
- Being born “sin-full/broken” should not draw condemnation, but compassion.

# Spiritual Blindness

- This is why they could not believe: Isaiah also said, “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, so that they might not perceive with their eyes, and understand with their mind and turn, and I would heal them.” (John 12:39-40)
- And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Cor. 4:3-4)
- Jesus declared, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind may see and those who see may become blind.” (John 9:39)
- “The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18)

# “In Adam vs. In Christ”

- For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:20–22)
- For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:17–19)
- Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (1 Cor. 15:45-49)

# Who are you?

- But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? (Rom. 9:20-21)

# Born Again

- Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 3:3-6).
- since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God (1 Peter 1:23)

# Who you are in Christ

- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- “to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Eph. 4:22-24)
- We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. (Rom. 6:6-7)
- For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. (Gal. 6:15)
- And [you] have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (Col. 3:10)

# The Best News Ever!

- But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that *we should walk in them*. (Ephesians 2:4-10)

# How to Live as Christ

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh;...Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: **sexual immorality, impurity, indecent behavior, idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these**, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit as well. Let's not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

(Gal. 5:16-26, NASB)

# How to View the Imago Dei

1. The image of God and human nature is best understood through the study of the person of Jesus, not of human nature per se.
2. We obtain our understanding of the image from divine revelation.
3. The image of God is best understood as a matter of our relationship to God, as something we experience in a dynamic way.
4. Our relationship to God parallels our relationship to one another (i.e., love thy neighbor, love one another, love your enemies).
5. The image of God is universal and found in all humans at all times and places.

# How to Honor the Imago Dei?

1. We see our neighbor as our fellow human.
2. We speak to and hear one another.
3. We render assistance to one another.
4. We do these things gladly.

(Karl Barth, 1958)

# Who are you?

- You are the apple of His eye! (Psalm 17:8; Zech. 2:8)
- You are not an accident, or a mistake! 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*. (Rom. 8:29)
- You are loved: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (Matt. 3:17; John 3:16)
- You will eat from the tree of life (Rev. 2:7)
- You will be given a new name (Rev. 2:17)
- In Christ Jesus we are restored as image-bearers of God!

# For What Purpose?

“Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.” (1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 11:36; Psalm 73:25-28)

*Westminster Shorter Catechism*