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## **GENESIS: IMAGERS**

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### **SERMON**

EVERY WORLD VIEW GIVES US FOUR THINGS:  
ENVIRONMENT, ESSENCE, EVIL, ESCHATOLOGY

### **ESSENCE: WHO ARE WE?**

#### **WHAT IS OUR PLACE IN CREATION?**

<sup>26</sup> 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.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> 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 1:26-28 (ESV)**

The story of the Bible is about God’s will for, and rule of, the realms he has created, visible and invisible, through the imagers he has created, human and nonhuman. This divine agenda is played out in both realms, in deliberate tandem.<sup>1</sup>

#### **WHAT IS THE IMAGO DEI – THE IMAGE OF GOD?**

INTELLIGENCE, REASON/RATIONALITY, EMOTIONS, COMMUNION WITH GOD, SELF-AWARENESS OR SENTIENCE, ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE, SOUL OR SPIRIT, CONSCIENCE, FREE WILL

**IF WE DEFINE THE IMAGE OF GOD AS AN ABILITY OR PROPERTY WE HAVE A PROBLEM BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT UNIQUE TO HUMANITY.**

**THIS HAS HUGE RAMIFICATIONS FOR A PRO-LIFE POSITION.**

The pro-life position is based on the proposition that human life (and so, personhood) begins at conception (the point when the female egg is fertilized by the male sperm). The simple-celled zygote inside the woman's womb, which pro-lifers believe to be a human person, is not self-aware; it has no intelligence, rational thought processes, or emotions; it cannot speak or communicate; it cannot commune with God or pray; and it cannot exercise its will or respond to the conscience. If you want to argue that those things are there potentially, then that means that you have only a potential person. That's actually the pro-choice position. Potential personhood is not actual personhood. This thought process would mean that abortion is not killing until personhood is achieved, which nearly all pro-choicers would certainly consider to be after birth.<sup>2</sup>

**IF WE DEFINE THE IMAGE BY SOUL/SPIRIT WE HAVE A PROBLEM BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT UNIQUE TO HUMANITY AND REQUIRE BRAIN FORMATION AND USE.****SOUL**

<sup>7</sup> 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*.

Genesis 2:7 (ESV)

<sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of *living creatures*, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens."

Genesis 1:20 (ESV)

<sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the *breath of life*, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

Genesis 1:30 (ESV)

SPIRIT (ruach) describes the immaterial part of mankind where thinking, reasoning, decision making and prayer take place.

Help is found in the grammar – the preposition in can denote many different ideas.

The mirror is in the bathroom. LOCATION

The mirror is broken in a million pieces. RESULT OF ACTION

I work in mirror repair. = I work as a mirror repairman. FUNCTION

Humankind was created as God's image. If we think of imaging as a verb or function, that translation makes sense. We are created to image God, to be his imagers. It is what we are by definition. The image is not an ability we have, but a status. We are God's representatives on earth. To be human is to image God.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>28</sup> 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 1:28 (ESV)**

## **JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE IMAGER OF GOD**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

**Colossians 1:15-20 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> 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.

**2 Corinthians 4:4 (ESV)**

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<sup>1</sup> Heiser, Michael S.. The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible (p. 38). Lexham Press. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Heiser, Michael S.. The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible (p. 41). Lexham Press. Kindle Edition.

<sup>3</sup> Heiser, Michael S.. The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible (pp. 42-43). Lexham Press. Kindle Edition.