MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

Sunday, November 8, 2026 – Genesis 1–11 Series – Msg 11A – Pastor Ben Nistor

GENESIS 1:26–28 English Standard Version (ESV)

> ***26*** *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."*
>
> ***27*** *So God created man in his own* ***image****,*
> *in the* ***image*** *of God he created him;*
> *male and female he created them.*
>
> ***28*** *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."*

REVIEW from LAST WEEK 'DAY SIX – LET US MAKE MAN'

1) God announces the creation of humanity in a remarkable way (vs 26–28).
2) God reveals a plurality within the Godhead: one God in three persons.
3) God gave humanity a unique place in creation, with dominion over the earth.

This week we ask what it means that God created man "in his own image."

WHAT IS THE IMAGE OF GOD?

Defining 'the image of God' comes down to two terms: **<u>image</u>** and **<u>likeness</u>**.

- The Hebrew word for image (*Tselem)* means a visible representation that stands for something else.
- The Hebrew word for likeness (*Demuth*) means a form, pattern, or model resembling something else.

Genesis 1:26	*Then God said, "Let us make man in our* ***image****, after our* ***likeness****."*
Genesis 1:27	*So God created man in his own* ***image****, in the* ***image*** *of God he created him;*
Genesis 5:1	*When God created man, he made him in the* ***likeness*** *of God.*
Genesis 5:3	*When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own* ***likeness****, after his* ***image****, and named him Seth.*
Genesis 9:6	*"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own* ***image****."*

Image and likeness carry the sense of **<u>sonship</u>** and **<u>representation</u>**.
Therefore, to be made in the image of God is to be God's **<u>son</u>**/**<u>daughter</u>** and representative.

HOW DOES THE FALL AFFECT THE IMAGE OF GOD?

- In Genesis 3, when Adam and Eve sin, they are banished from the Garden of Eden (Gen 2:22–24).

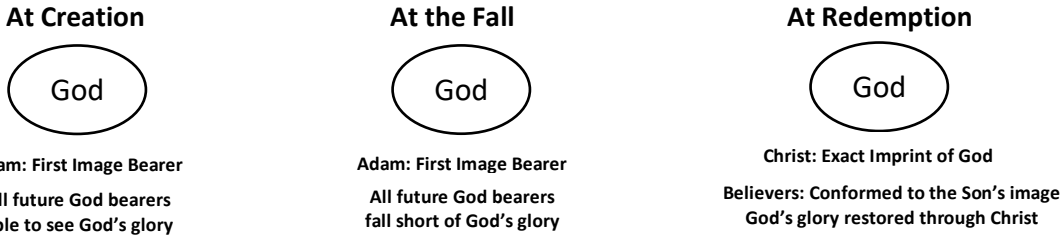
  IMPORTANT: There is <u>no</u> biblical evidence that humanity loses the image of God.

- God's image is passed down from Adam to Seth (Genesis 5:1–3) and preserved through the **<u>flood</u>** (Gen 9:6)
- But the fall of humanity shows significant damage has been done to humanity (Gen 3:17–24)
  - The possibility of **<u>death</u>** of the image of God.
  - For **<u>women</u>**: child-bearing pain of future God-bearers and difficulty relating to husbands.
  - For **<u>men</u>**: difficulty in carrying out the responsibilities of image bearers.
  - For **<u>all</u>**: expulsion from the garden of Eden and God's intimate presence
    and falling short of God's glory (Romans 3:23)

HOW DOES CHRIST CHANGE GOD'S IMAGE BEARERS?

Two words in the New Testament give a fuller meaning to the image of God

- The Greek Word for image (*eikon*) corresponds directly to the Hebrew word for image.
  - But the NT shows the primary image bearer of God is **Jesus Christ** (2 Corinthians 4:4)
    - Christ is the exact imprint of God's nature (Hebrews 1:3)
    - Christ is the one through whom the world is Created (Colossians 1:15–16)
  - All **believers** in Christ are conformed to the image of the Son (Romans 8:29; 2 Cor 3:18; Col 3:10)



Stage	The Image (what we are)	Glory
Creation	God's image in earthly form	Crowned with glory and honor (Ps 8:5)
Fall	God's image, unchanged (Gen 9:6)	Still crowned with honor, yet short of the glory God intends (Rom 3:23)
In Christ	God's image, being renewed in knowledge of the Son (Col 3:10)	Transformed from one degree of glory to another (2 Cor 3:18)
Resurrection	God's image in heavenly form (1 Cor 15:49)	Raised in glory beyond Adam (1 Cor 15:43)

The image of God is what every person is: God's created son or daughter and representative, whom sin left short of God's glory. Through Christ's death and resurrection, the Holy Spirit conforms believers more and more to the image of Christ, until they are raised to a glory greater than Adam's.

WHAT DOES BEING MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE MEAN FOR ME?

1) Humans are the only creatures that bear the image of God in Creation (Gen 1:26–28)
   Do you believe there is a distinction between humanity and all creation?

2) Every human life is sacred because every person bears God's image (Gen 9:6)
   Do you believe every human life, no matter the stage or age, is sacred?

3) Our words must honor every person made in God's likeness (Jas 3:9–10)
   Do you use your words to honor every person made in God's likeness?

4) Do not hate or be sinfully angry toward another image bearer of God (Matthew 5:21–22; 1 John 3:15)
   Do you need to repent of anger and hate?

5) Men and women bear God's image equally (Gen 1:27)
   Do you believe that male and female are equal in dignity and value before God's eyes?

6) God created us to rule his world as his representatives (Gen 1:28; Ps 8:5–6)
   Do you believe it is your role to represent God in the world?

7) We belong to God and owe him our whole lives (Matt 22:20–21)
   Do you relate to God as your Creator and Lord?

8) God wants us to be conformed increasingly to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29)