

10 October

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Image – God loves



Let's hear your story

1. How would you explain to a friend, family member or work colleague what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God?
2. Is our identity received from God or achieved by human effort? **(We receive it from God. God spoke our identity over us – see Genesis 1:26.)**
3. According to Genesis 1:27; which two gender categories did God create in His own image and likeness? **(Male and female.)**
4. According to Genesis 2:18; what did God say was not good? **(It is not good that the man should be alone. Adam can't reflect the image and likeness of a relational God unless he's in a relationship. God created us for relationships.)**



Let's go deeper

5. How did God create and design marriage? **(Genesis 2:24; A man (singular / gender specific), shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife (singular / gender specific), and they shall become one flesh.)**
6. What is the place of humans in relation to God and creation? **(Humans are under God, and over lower creation – see Psalm 8:5 – 8.)**
7. When does human life begin? **(At conception. John the Baptizer was known in his mother's womb; see Luke 1:13; 41 and 44.)**
8. Who has best imaged God? **(Jesus. See 2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15 and John 14:9.)**



Let's apply this

9. The war over our identity:

**Genesis 1:26;** Then God said; let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness.  
**Genesis 3:5;** ...He (the serpent) said to the woman, Did God actually say...

- God wants us to live our lives from the identity He speaks over us.
- The devil wants us to disobey God, and live from a false identity.
- God is love, and therefore being made in God's image and likeness we too can love, accept, forgive and serve others.

SUMMARY:

- Image: God loves

**What does the bible reveal about the origin of human life?** (See Genesis 1:26). The bible repeats this truth after sin entered the world in Genesis 3, meaning we remain image bearers of God. To image the God of the Bible is to make Him visible to a watching world. God's heart is to transform you to reflect Him. You are made to mirror Him, when you get up in the morning and you look in the mirror, the job of the mirror is to reflect your image. You are made in the image and likeness of God, you are created to reflect the Creator to His creation, this is our whole life. In every situation we should ask ourselves how can I reflect the love of God, the mercy of God, the generosity of God, the patience of God, the glory of God, how can I reflect Him in a situation? And that's human life. Our created purpose is to mirror and reflect our God, not our sin nature or culture or ourselves to the world.

**What does it mean to be made in the image and likeness of God?**

Genesis 1:26 – 28; God gave us dominion, and He created male and female. Genesis 1:31; After God created male and female in His image, He says "very good." Genesis 2:18; God is a relational God who made us for relationship. Genesis 2:19 – 23; Husband and wife should be side-by-side co-laborers with God. Genesis 2:24; God created and designed marriage; not government. Genesis 2:25; Adam and Eve were unashamed. Sin brings shame. No sin, no shame.

**What is the place of humans in relation to God and creation?**

What is the chain of command? **(See Psalm 8:5 – 8)**. There is God and the obedient angels, mankind and then animals and plants. We are under God, and over lower creation. When we don't understand these one of two things happen; evolution says we are highly evolved animals, and Eastern religions want to pull us up to be gods, and God wants us to know our place.

**What about the unborn life?**

Luke, is called in **Colossians 4:14**, the beloved physician, he's a medical doctor. The word used for baby (Brephos), is the same word Luke used for a baby in the womb and outside the womb. It's the same word because it's all human life.

**John the Baptizer:** (See Luke 1:13 and Luke 1:41 and 44).

**Jesus Christ in a manger:** (See Luke 2:12 and Luke 2:16).

**What about children outside of the womb:** (See Luke 18:15).

**An Old Testament example in Exodus:** (See Acts 7:19).

The same word that is used for John the Baptist in his mother's womb, is the same word used for baby Jesus in the manger, is the same word used for the children who run to Jesus, and is the same word used for the sons murdered in the days of Egypt.

**Who has best imaged God?** Jesus (See 2 Cor. 4:4; Colossians 1:15 and John 14:9).