#### Who Am 9?

Made in God's Image. Being Conformed to Christ's Likeness.

Bread of Life Church - October 21, 2018

### Introduction

1. Image of God. 2. Likeness of Jesus Christ.

### Who am 9?

1. I AM MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE!

"We are not to look to what men in themselves deserve but to attend to the image of God which exists in all and to which we owe all honor and love."

John Calvin
Institutes of the Christian Religion

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."

Genesis 1:26-28

# What does it mean to be made in the "image" of God? What does it mean to be "like" God?

#### MEANING OF "IMAGE OF GOD" (IMAGO DEI)

- Theologians have proposed the "image" represents characteristics of God: intellectual ability, moral capacity, decision making power, etc.
- Instead, let's focus on the simple Hebrew definitions that the original readers would have understood for "image". The entire rest of the Bible describes the various characteristics of God ("likeness").

## SUMMARY DEFINITIONS (Both point to something "similar" but not "identical")

- IMAGE: FORM (3D); points to SUBSTANCE; REPRESENTS someone/ something else
- LIKENESS: FUNCTION; points to SIMILARITY; RESEMBLES someone/ something else

# "Image"

#### USES OF "IMAGE" (TSELEM) IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Image in the Old Testament generally refers to a three-dimensional object which represents the substance of something else.

- 1. "image" representing God: man being made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27, 9:6)
- 2. "image" representing a father: Seth being after the image of Adam (Gen. 5:3)
- 3. "image" representing false gods: idols as images of false gods (Num. 33:52, 2 Kgs. 11:18, 2 Chr. 23:17, Ezek. 7:20, 16:17, 23:14, Amos 5:26)
- 4. "image" representing plagues: images of tumors and mice (1 Sam. 6:5, 11)

Many ancient rulers were called the "image of God" and thought to represent various gods, even to the point of being divine themselves. But in Genesis, EVERYONE was made in the IMAGE OF GOD.

People aren't to make images of God because he has already made images of himself—us!

The Bible condemns creating an image of anything that represents any god. Idols are not gods. The only "image" that God accepts are the people made in His image.

God calls everyone to become His child through Jesus Christ.

## 3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:3

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Romans 1:22-23

# There is only one way to become the "image of God"—God has to make you in His image.

As the "image of God" you represent God.

On the day God made humanity, it's the only day where the creation was called "very good" rather than simply "good." You weren't made to be simply "good". You were made to be "very good".

### Nowhere does the Bible say the "image of God" in us was destroyed. Nowhere.

5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Psalm 8:5

### "Likeness"

USES OF "LIKENESS" (DEMÛT) IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Likeness in the Old Testament generally points to the similarity of a function or attribute of one thing that resembles a function or attribute of something else.

- 1. "likeness" of man resembles God (Gen. 1:26, 5:1)
- 2. "likeness" of son resembles father (Gen. 5:3)
- 3. false gods having venom "like" a serpent (Ps. 58:4)
- 4. what "likeness" compares to God? (Is. 40:18)
- 5. various things compared to the "likeness" of 4 living creatures (Ezek. 1:5, 10, 13; 10:1)
- 6. appearance & construction...same "likeness"...a wheel within a wheel (Ezek. 1:16, 10:10, 21, 22)
- 7. "likeness" of a throne (Ezek. 1:26)
- 8. "likeness" with a human appearance (Ezek. 1:26)
- 9. the "likeness" of the glory of the Lord (Ezek. 1:28)
- 10. a "likeness" of Babylonians (Ezek. 23:15)
- 11. in the "likeness" of the children of man (Dan. 10:16)

# There are many ways to be "like" God. After the fall of mankind into sin, we must work at being more "like" God.

The more we resemble God, the more the world will believe in God.

We are made as moral creatures. In order to have a Fall, there must be a moral nature to start with. A moral creature must have a moral creator.

-R. C. Sproul

The great irony of The Fall in the Garden of Eden: In attempting to become more like God, we instead became much less like God. The "image of God" is still intact, but the "likeness" of God was badly damaged.

Humanity is often too morally immature to handle the knowledge of good and evil in a godly way. Whenever someone is known as a "Christian" and falls, it hurts us all.

# Some ways in which we are like God

and NOT like God.

- We are like God in our knowledge of good and evil.
- And we are not like God in our knowledge of good and evil in that God doesn't allow evil to dwell with Him (Psalm 5:4). Sometimes we do allow evil to dwell with us.

- We are like God in that we are made in His image.
- And we are not like God in that we often choose NOT to be like Him.

- We are like God in our intellectual ability, moral capacity, decision making power, creativity, appreciation for beauty, etc.
- And we are not like God in that there are a great many things that we still don't know: the number of hairs on our head, etc. But one day we will know fully even as we are fully known (1 Corinthians 13:12).

#### Who am 9?

2. I AM BEING CONFORMED TO THE LIKENESS OF CHRIST!

- As believers, we need the Holy Bible. We need more than the Bible's INFORMATION. We need the Bible's FORMATION in our hearts and lives to conform us to the likeness of Christ.
- As believers, we also need the Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit's ILLUMINATION of the Bible. And we need the Holy Spirit's INCARNATION of Christ in our hearts and lives.

29 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.

Romans 8:29

2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

1 Peter 1:2-4

45 Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:45

4 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

# 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Colossians 1:15

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

3 Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love,

Ephesians 1:3-4

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18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Colossians 3:10

24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:24

# Fallen: Dedicated Image of God & Debilitated Likeness of God

**Our Old State Before Christ** 

9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

James 3:9

### 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:22

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Romans 5:12

22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

Ephesians 4:22

#### Holy: Set Free from Sin, Set Apart to God, & Becoming Sanctified

Our New State In Christ

We are declared holy by accepting the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the atoning sacrifice for our sins on the Cross and the promise of the future resurrection to come for us!

22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

Romans 6:22

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

#### Future State:

Glorified

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Philippians 3:20–21

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Romans 6:5

We won't be disembodied spirits in heaven forever. We will be reunited with our bodies to become a whole soul once again. After that, we will rule and reign with Jesus Christ!

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

1 Corinthians 13:9–12

## Jesus our Teacher and Example

The Image of God & The Will of God

13 And they sent some of the Pharisees and the Herodians to him so that they could catch him unawares in a statement. 14 And when they came, they said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are truthful and you do not care what anyone thinks, because you do not regard the opinion of people but teach the way of God in truth. Is it permitted to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay or should we not pay?" 15 But because he knew their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why are you testing me? Bring me a denarius so that I can look at it!" 16 So they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" And they said to him, "Caesar's." 17 And Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar the things of Caesar, and to God the things of God!" And they were utterly amazed at him.

Mark 12:13-17

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32 And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. 34 And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." 35 And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Mark 14:32-36

Every single human being, no matter how much the image of God is marred by sin, or illness, or weakness, or age, or any other disability, still has the status of being in God's image and therefore must be treated with the dignity and respect that is due to God's image-bearer.

- Wayne Grudem. "Systematic Theology".

#### 5 Declarations

- 1. I am God's image! I belong to Him. I am not the result of nature's "chance". I am the result of God's choice! My life has dignity and worth.
- 2. As the image of God, I represent Him! May God help me to rededicate myself to my personal spiritual life in humility and in holiness.
- 3. I am being conformed to the likeness of Jesus Christ! I yield myself to His Holy Spirit to order, direct, and correct my life. I pray and read the Holy Bible to learn about Him, to hear from Him, and to commune with Him.
- 4. As the people of God made in the image of God, we delight in gathering together to pray, to worship, to hear and share God's word, to witness, to fellowship, to serve, to give, and to experience God together!
- 5. Everyone is made in the image of God! May I treat everyone with the dignity and respect due to God's image-bearer.