

1 • Created in God's Image

“What does it mean to be a human being?” Ask a hundred people and you'd get a wide variety of answers.

In this 4-part series, we want to consult the Creator. What answers has *he* provided? What do those answers tell us about ourselves? Each other? Where we came from? Why we're here? Where we're going?



The very first answer to our questions can be found on Page 1 of your Bible: **You have been created in God's _____.**

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our _____. 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 _____ image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he _____ them. (Gen 1:26-27)

What do you expect to see when you look in the mirror? Your own image. What has God created human beings to be? His image throughout his good creation, a reflection of his will on earth as it is in heaven, physical resemblances of his heart throughout the world. Which means...



1. **This is what makes _____ so foolish.** What sense does it make for human beings to create “carved images” (Exo 20:4; Acts 17:24-29) when God has already provided images throughout the world—human beings!
2. **Every single person you come in contact with is _____.** In Psalm 8, David describes man as “crowned with glory and honor” (8:3-5). We were created to treat each other accordingly. But what fractures God's good will for his image-bearers? _____.
3. _____ **is the clearest, most perfect image of God.** The apostle Paul describes him as “the image of the _____ God” in Colossians 1:15. We will never get a better view of what God would love to see in the mirror than Jesus.
4. **My Creator wants me to _____ to the image of Jesus.** That's why we're given the time we have. “To be conformed to the image of his Son” (Rom 8:29).

What does this mean for you? How does it connect to *your* life? **Let's talk about it...**

For Class & Family Discussion:

- “What does it mean to be a human being?” If you were to ask a variety of your peers, what sort of answers might you hear?
- If we leave our Creator completely out of our answers to “What does it mean to be a human being?” what happens? Do we get better answers? How does it impact the way we look at our own selves? How does it impact the way we look at the people around us?
- But what does **Psalm 14:1** and **Romans 1:19-23** tell us about ourselves if we come up with our own answers and leave God out of the equation? What does it look like today, among your own peers, when people leave God out of the biggest questions of life?
- God has created his image-bearers with incredible diversity, but we haven’t always appreciated that diversity as a sign of his eternal power and divine nature. What does it mean to treat every single person I come in contact with as special? What does it look like to treat others as if they are truly “crowned with glory and honor” (**Psa 8**)?
- Let’s explore what it really means to be “conformed to the image of Jesus” (**Rom 8:29**). Let’s open our Bibles together and think through the message of passages like **2 Corinthians 3:18**, **Romans 12:1-2**, **Colossians 3:1-10**, and **1 Corinthians 15:49**. What are we being told? What does it all mean?
- What about you? If you were going to explain “You have been created in God’s image” to someone in your own words, how would you do it? What would you say?

For NEXT Wednesday:

- “**What does it mean to be a human being?**” Next Wednesday we’ll add: **You have been blessed by God with a body**. Can you find any Bible passages that teach that truth? How do we sometimes find it easy to take our bodies for granted, failing to appreciate what an amazing blessing they are? If my body is a blessing from God...