









IMAGO DEI

Restoring the Divine Image

Genesis 1:26-28a, 31

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.



Genesis 1:26-28a, 31

^{28a} God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it... ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.



1 Corinthians 15:45-49

So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

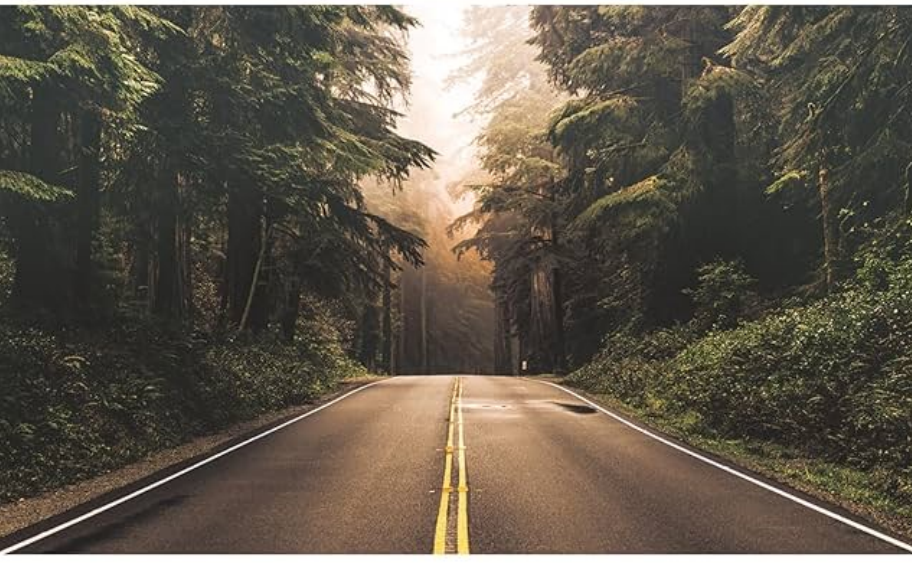
Humanity as the Imago Dei

What does it mean to bear the divine image?



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God & Soul Care

THE THERAPEUTIC RESOURCES

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THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

[A] comprehensive account of the *imago Dei* includes (1) dynamic structural resemblance (e.g. rational-linguistic abilities, emotions, volition, creativity), relational resemblance, and functional resemblance (responsible ruling over God's creation)... This provides the creational platform for (2) the love and worship of God, love of neighbor, and holy living, which [is] godly character. Finally, the imago as mirror [is] active receptivity with respect God. The fulfillment of the image of God is the capacity of humans to receive, reflect, and participate in God's glory...and thereby exemplify him in his virtuous character...

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- 1) To reflect – v. 26 (*image, likeness*)



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- 2) To relate – v. 26-27 (*male and female he created them*)



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What does it mean to bear the divine image?

- 1) To reflect – v. 26 (*image, likeness*)
- 2) To relate – v. 26-27 (*male and female he created them*)
- 3) To reign – v. 26, 28 (*rule, subdue*)



Humanity as the Imago Dei

Application: The *imago Dei* is the basis of:

- Dignity and worth
- Human rights
- Moral responsibility





The whole concept of the *imago Dei*, as it is expressed in Latin, the 'image of God,' is the idea that all men have something within them that God injected. Not that they have substantial unity with God, but that every man has a capacity to have fellowship with God. And this gives him a uniqueness, it gives him worth, it gives him dignity.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

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Christ as the Imago Dei

How does Jesus fulfill the *imago Dei*?

- 1) *Incarnation*: Christ is the true human, the last Adam





[Christ] passed through every stage of life: he was made an infant for infants, sanctifying infancy; a child among children, sanctifying those of this age, an example also to them of filial affection, righteousness and obedience; a young man among young men, and example to them, and sanctify them to the Lord. So also among the older men; that he might be a perfect master for all, not solely in regard to the revelation of the truth, but also in respect of each stage of life . . . [He] recapitulated in himself, the ancient formation of man, that he might kill sin, deprive, death, death of its power and vivify man.

—Irenaeus of Lyons

Christ as the Imago Dei

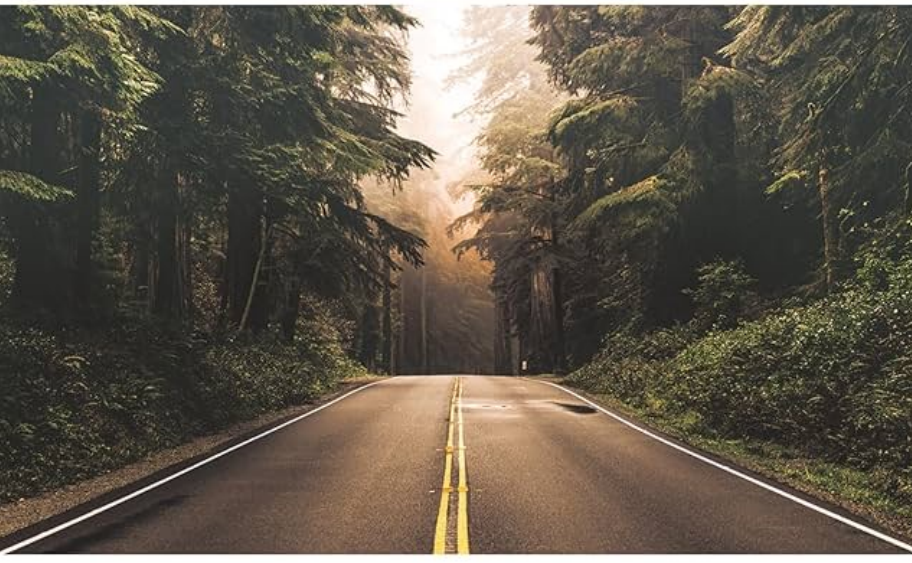
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- 2) *Imitation*: Christ is the model we are to follow



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Because of Christ's role as the archetypal human, in a multitude of ways, believers discover their humanity and their individual calling by learning from him (Matt. 11:29). His story is the story of humanity, living in perfect, face-to-face communion with God.; so his story is the revelation of our story, both as the gift of perfection that God gives believers in Christ and as the goal of our lives.

Christ as the Imago Dei

How does Jesus fulfill the *imago Dei*?

- 1) *Incarnation*: Christ is the true human, the last Adam
- 2) *Imitation*: Christ is the model we are to follow
- 3) *Imputation*: Christ's perfection is credited as ours



Romans 5:17-19

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! ¹⁸ Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.





Mine are Christ's living, doing, and speaking, his suffering and dying, mine as much as if I had lived, done, spoken, suffered, and died as he did.

—Martin Luther



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