

SHAPED2LIVE

"Who Are We Supposed to Be?"

Pt. 5 "Made in His Image."

"God said, Let Us make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth."

When we are talking about or trying to come to an understanding of being made in God's image. It is not so much about our physical appearance as it is about the nature of our spirit and mindset... You see, we (the church in general) have made the idea of being made in God's image more mysterious, mystical and more complicated than it truly is.

Everything about us, our life and who we are is meant to be a direct reflection of YHWH.

PERIOD!

"Man is the image of God by virtue of his spiritual nature. of the breath of God by which the being, formed from the dust of the earth, became a living soul."¹ Let's take another look at Genesis 2:7.

"Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath or spirit of life, and man became a living being."

Unlike the rest of the animals that were created which became living creatures at the moment of their creation out of the ground as found in Genesis 2:19. Man did not become a living being until God did something special—

He "*breathed into his nostrils the breath or spirit of life*"... This uniqueness immediately sets man APART from the rest of creation.

"The image of God consists, therefore, in the spiritual personality of man, though not merely in unity of self-consciousness and self-determination, or in the fact that man was created a consciously free Ego; for personality is merely the basis and form of the divine likeness, not its real essence.

❖ **Note:** *Ego Defined: a person's sense of self-esteem or self-importance.*

"a boost to my ego" synonyms: self-esteem, self-importance, self-worth, self-respect, self-conceit, self-image, self-confidence...

¹ Keil and Delitzsch Commentary

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the part of the mind that mediates between the conscious and the unconscious and is responsible for reality testing and a sense of personal identity.²

This consists rather in the fact, that the man endowed with free self-conscious personality possesses, in his spiritual as well as corporeal nature, a creaturely copy of the holiness and blessedness of the divine life. This concrete essence of the divine likeness was shattered by sin; and it is only through Christ, the brightness of the glory of God and the expression of His essence (Heb_1:3), that our nature is transformed into the image of God again (Col_3:10; Eph_4:24).³

Before we jump into some scriptures let's look at what Matthew Henry had to say on this topic.

" Man was made last of all the creatures: this was both an honour and a favour to him. Yet man was made the same day that the beasts were; his body was made of the same earth with theirs; and while he is in the body, he inhabits the same earth with them.

God forbid that by indulging the body, and the desires of it, we should make ourselves like the beasts that perish! Man was to be a creature different from all that had been hitherto made. Flesh and spirit, heaven and earth, must be put together in him. God said, "Let us make man."

Man, when he was made, was to glorify the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Into that great name we are baptized, for to that great name we owe our being. It is the soul of man that especially bears God's image. Man was made upright, Ecc_7:29. His understanding saw Divine things clearly and truly; there were no errors or mistakes in his knowledge; his will consented at once, and in all things, to the will of God. His affections were all regular, and he had no bad appetites or passions. His thoughts were easily brought and fixed to the best subjects. Thus holy, thus happy, were our first parents in having the image of God upon them. But how is this image of God upon man defaced! May the Lord renew it upon our souls by his grace!"⁴

❖ Notable points of being in God's image:

1. It is the soul of man that especially bears God's image...
2. Man was made upright...
3. His understanding saw Divine things clearly and truly...
4. there were no errors or mistakes in his knowledge...
5. His affections were all regular, and he had no bad appetites or passions...
6. His thoughts were easily brought and fixed to the best subjects...

² Google

³ Keil and Delitzsch Commentary

⁴ Matthew Henry's Commentary

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❖ Let's look at a few scriptures.

Ephesians 4:22-24

"Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion;

And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude],

And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness."

RIGHTEOUSNESS, *noun* ri'chusness.

1. Purity of heart and rectitude of life; conformity of heart and life to the divine law. *righteousness* as used in Scripture and theology, in which it is chiefly used, is nearly equivalent to holiness, comprehending holy principles and affections of heart, and conformity of life to the divine law. It includes all we call justice, honesty and virtue, with holy affections; in short, it is true religion.⁵

REC'TITUDE, *noun* [Latin *rectus*, right, straight.]

In morality, rightness of principle or practice; uprightness of mind; exact conformity to truth, or to the rules prescribed for moral conduct, either by divine or human laws. *rectitude* of mind is the disposition to act in conformity to any known standard of right, truth or justice; *rectitude* of conduct is the actual conformity to such standard.

Perfect *rectitude* belongs only to the Supreme Being. The more nearly the *rectitude* of men approaches to the standard of the divine law, the more exalted and dignified is their character. Want of *rectitude* is not only sinful, but debasing.⁶

HO'LINESS, *noun* [from holy.] The state of being holy; purity or integrity of moral character; freedom from sin; sanctity. Applied to the Supreme Being, *holiness* denotes perfect purity or integrity of moral character, one of his essential attributes.

⁵ Webster's Dictionary 1828 - Online Edition

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1. Applied to human beings, *holiness* is purity of heart or dispositions; sanctified affections; piety; moral goodness, but not perfect.⁷

Colossians 3:9,10

"Do not lie to one another, for you have stripped off the old (unregenerate) self with its evil practices, And have clothed yourselves with the new [spiritual self], which is [ever in the process of being] renewed and remolded into [fuller and more perfect knowledge upon] knowledge after the image (the likeness) of Him Who created it."

❖ Final words from Matthew Henry.

"God's image upon man consists in these three things: -

1. In his nature and constitution, not those of his body (for God has not a body), but those of his soul. This honour indeed God has put upon the body of man, that the Word was made flesh, the Son of God was clothed with a body like ours and will shortly clothe ours with a glory like that of his.

And this we may safely say, That he by whom God made the worlds, not only the great world, but man the little world, formed the human body, at the first, according to the platform he designed for himself in the fulness of time. But it is the soul, the great soul, of man, that does especially bear God's image.

The soul is a spirit, an intelligent immortal spirit, an influencing active spirit, herein resembling God, the Father of Spirits, and the soul of the world. The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord. The soul of man, considered in its three noble faculties, understanding, will, and active power, is perhaps the brightest clearest looking-glass in nature, wherein to see God.

2. In his place and authority: *Let us make man in our image, and let him have dominion.* As he has the government of the inferior creatures, he is, as it were, God's representative, or viceroy, upon earth; they are not capable of fearing and serving God, therefore God has appointed them to fear and serve man. **Yet his government of himself by the freedom of his will has in it more of God's image than his government of the creatures.**⁸

I will close with this encouragement and instruction from Colossians 3:9b,10

⁷ Webster's Dictionary 1828 - Online Edition

⁸ Matthew Henry's Commentary

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"...for you have stripped off the old (unregenerate) self with its evil practices,

And have clothed yourselves with **the new [spiritual self]**, which is [ever in the process of being] renewed and remolded into [fuller and more perfect knowledge upon] knowledge after the image (the likeness) of Him Who created it."