

**9-2-18 Picture Sunday**  
**RESTORING THE IMAGE OF GOD IN MAN**

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. One of the characteristics of the Preaching of our Lord Jesus was that He was able to tell stories, and what are stories but a series of pictures in our mind.

Our Lord would say things like:

The Kingdom of God is like a man traveling to a far country.

The Kingdom of God is like a man that sowed seed.

The Kingdom of God is 10 Virgins waiting for the groom 5 were wise and 5 were foolish.

He shared stories and parables to illustrate spiritual truth.

Why did our Lord do this?

He did it so that we could, in our mind, comprehend spiritual truth.

Today is what we call Picture Sunday. It is a time when we capture pictures of everyone. We will give each family a 8x10 family portrait to remember this point in time.

I was talking to a friend about picture Sunday and he said to me. Do you realize that a picture is the only thing that you can look at, that the older it gets the younger it looks. In the Bulletin is a family portrait of our family taken in 1983. People see that picture of me and say what happened to you? AGE is what happened. I was 30 back then now I am 65. Do you realize Shar is older than what I was in that picture.

This morning I want to talk to you about the most important image or picture in Bible.

Genesis 1:26 And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

**RESTORING THE IMAGE OF GOD IN MAN.**

In this text we read about the most important picture in all the Bible. This is the family portrait of God reflected in the making of man. God designed man to be a picture of himself. A self portrait, so to speak.

**THIS MORNING I WANT TO CONSIDER:**

**I. HOW IS MAN MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD?**

## **II. HOW IS THAT IMAGE DISTORTED BECAUSE OF SIN?**

## **III. HOW CAN MAN BE RESTORED AND PROPERLY REFLECT GOD IMAGE IN THEIR LIVES?**

Consider this morning:

If I want to know how to operate something, the best thing to do is read the operating manual.

If I want to understand the design of something read what the designer or inventor says about his invention.

The reason our society and country is a mess is because we have thrown out the blueprints of the designer of our lives and we are trying to re-invent who we are, where we came from, and how God designed us to operate in this life.

We live in the computer age and one thing that is sure is that unless you read how to operate certain computerized items that you buy you will never figure out how they operate them. We accept this and understand that this is the way things work. But how is it that men who are far more complicated than any computer, how is it that we could ever imagine that we are just a biological product of chance and evolution?

The Bible is the only true account of who created us and why He created us and what we were created for. The Bible tells us where we came from, what went wrong to cause all the heartaches and problems we face today, and how to get back to the way God intended for us to live.

Those who reject God's word are living in confusion, and that confusion is being acted out in the chaos we see all around us in this whacked out world.

According to the Bible:

Genesis 1:26 And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

NOW THIS BOOK TELLS US WHO WE ARE, WHY WE ARE HERE, AND OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE. According to the Bible GOD CREATED US. WE ARE NOT A BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT OF EVOLUTION AND CHANCE.

According to the Bible man was originally made in GOD'S OWN IMAGE.

## **I. HOW IS MAN MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.**

Genesis 1:26 And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

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Think about what this says - if this is right, the mainstream thinking of this world is so far off base in the foundation of it's philosophy of life that it is the difference between night and day, east and west, north and south. This Book says we are a direct creation of God. The world says we are a biological product of millions and millions of years of evolution and chance. Now, both cannot be true!

I cannot prove to you that this book is true but I am going to share what it says, and see if it does not make sense to you!

## **1. THE BIBLE SHOWS THAT THE CONSTITUENT PARTS OF MAN REFLECT GOD'S MAKEUP OR IMAGE.**

Chapter 2 gives more details of how God made man in his image:

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Man is made up of three constituent parts:

BODY = Dust of the Ground.  
SPIRIT= Word breath is same word used for spirit.  
SOUL= He became a living soul.

These three parts make up a man.

Our God is a triune God.

God the Father.  
God the Son.  
God the Holy Spirit.

God said in Genesis 1:26 Let us make man our image in our likeness.

## **2. THE BIBLE SHOWS THAT GOD MADE MAN A PLURALITY OF PERSONS LIKE HIMSELF.**

GEN 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day **that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;**

GEN 5:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

Genesis 1:27 **So God created man in his own image,** in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

He created two, Male and Female.

This is the picture of God in man. It is the image of God in man.

The Family is made up in the image of God.

The Father is to be like GOD THE FATHER.

The Wife.. is to be like GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Children are to be like Jesus Christ.

### **3. GOD MADE MAN TO HAVE DOMINION OVER HIS CREATION.**

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Man is to rule over planet earth.

He is to take dominion over the animals.

When men take control, tame animals, plant, build, they are being like God who created.

God is the Creator.

When we are industrious, when we are creative, we are role playing and being a reflection of God.

God made a beautiful place for Adam and Eve to dwell, called the garden of Eden. It was a place they could have dominion over, rule, and subdue it, till it, beautify it, plant and grow and cultivate it.

Perfect environment.

Perfect weather .

Perfect food. Tree of life.

If they ate from that tree they could live forever.

But that perfect place has been lost and distorted. So also the image of god in man has been distorted.

What distorted that image was rebellion against the creator, which the Bible calls sin.

### **II. HOW IS THAT IMAGE DISTORTED BECAUSE OF SIN.**

Sin is what caused this perfect picture to be marred.

If someone is hated of by another person they probably will not want to hang their picture on the wall. In fact they probably would desecrate their picture. Throw darts at it, draw a mustache on it.

People that are at odds with God will tend to do things to desecrate the image of God that God designed in man himself. This is exactly what has happened to those who are at enmity with God.

## 1. **FIRST CONSIDER HOW A PERSON GETS TO BE AT ENMITY WITH GOD.**

SIN: When a man sins against God this places him at enmity with God.

God gave mankind a simple command.

Genesis 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

It was a simple command and simple test of Man's fidelity and love to their creator.

But as you are aware, the tempter came who was none other than Satan and deceived Eve and tempted her to eat from the forbidden tree, and then Eve tempted Adam and the rest is History. Mankind, ever since, has been running from God and rebelling against God. MEN ARE TRYING TO DO IT THEIR WAY!

SIN, is simply this.

God says don't and we do.

God says do and we don't.

When man sinned it opened up Pandora's box of sinful complexities.

Soon Cain killed his brother.

Men became violent on the earth.

Marriages were destroyed.

The imaginations of men became evil continually.

Sin brings death and death is a desecration of the image of God in man.

Every time we sin we throw a dart at the image of God ingrained in our very being. One dart after another until that image is so wounded our lives are in chaos.

Sin has become so deeply ingrained in our society we have people trying to redefine marriage. Maybe it can work between a man and a man. God said he made them male and female. But if the Bible is not true how do we know that. Maybe in the evolutionary scheme of things Female and Female or Male and Male are ok, or maybe what sex you are is up for grabs until you can decide for yourself.

### **NBC news article states:**

*Is Zylar a boy or a girl? How about Kadyr? That's a question their parents, Nate and Julia Sharpe, say only the twins can decide. The Cambridge, Mass., couple represent a small group of parents raising "theybies" - children being brought up without gender designation from birth.*

Again, when Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This was mankind's leap into the unknown cesspool of sin. No longer is it God who dictates right and wrong, good and evil. Now man can decide for himself.

Even what defines life is up for grabs. Maybe a human being is not a person until they are born. So before that they can be killed, harvested for body parts. Good becomes what society says is good, bad becomes what our society says is bad.

So every sin we commit we throw another dart at the image of God in our lives. So there is downward slope in our society. Chaos. Confusion. Heartaches. Our schools are a mess, our government is a mess, society is a mess, our economy is affected.

Now our society is at such enmity against God the very sight of the 10 commandments in our public arena causes us an offence. We blush to speak of His name unless used in a cursing environment.

Deeper and deeper we fall until we cease to think of ourselves as a creation of God. We decide we are nothing more than highly advanced animals. Then we wonder why it is our children act like animals in our public schools.

We pay women if they want to kill their babies, and put people in jail if they kill a pest in their back yard.

We laud people who live a perverted lifestyle and cross dress and decide to change their sex , but then we put people in jail who discipline their children and spank them.

The Bible says, woe unto them that call good evil and evil good.

### **III. HOW CAN MAN BE RESTORED AND PROPERLY REFLECT GOD IN THEIR LIVES?**

#### **1. CONSIDER THE SIN NATURE IS PASSED ON THROUGH ADAM.**

The sin nature is passed on through Adam.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

I Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

When we are born physically into this world we are a child of Adam. So we are bent on sinning.

A parent that loves their child will discipline them and show them there will be repercussions for sin and rebellion.

Left to themselves children will become terrors, will be disobedient and ultimately little devils. Listen to what Solomon wrote:

PRO 23:13 Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

PRO 23:14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

## **2. WE RECEIVE A NEW NATURE AND A NEW SPIRIT IN CHRIST.**

If we do not see that our rebellious nature brings punishment. Hardships. Chastening. Why would we ever want to repent of our sins and come to Christ?

We need to receive a new nature.

How is it we who are born in sin and with a rebellious heart and mind could possibly do right?

Here is what God has done.

Jesus came to this earth was born of a virgin, bypassed the sin nature of Adam.

He paid the complete penalty for our sin. That penalty is death and hell. He paid that on the cross. He satisfied all the righteous demands for our sin.

He defeated sin and death when He went to the cross.

He being God in the flesh could do this.

The third day He arose from the dead proving He was who He said He was.

Now He has commissioned His servants and preachers to make this declaration:

**WHO EVER WILL CALL ON HIM TO BE SAVED FROM THEIR SIN CAN BE SAVED AND RECEIVE THIS NEW SPIRIT AND BE BORN AGAIN.**

Will you receive Him, **THIS IS THE CURE.**

This is how the image of God in you is restored and now you become a witness for Him.

He said this:

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

This is the greatest picture in all the Bible, the image of God restored in you. **FOR THIS TO HAPPEN YOU NEED TO RECEIVE HIM! WILL YOU RECEIVE HIM TODAY?**