



*In the*

(Times are approximate) – start time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Welcome**

**(+3 min)**

**Opening prayer**

**(+1 min)**

**Opening Comments –**

- Last week's lesson focused on all that God accomplished in creation of everything.
- The power of His word, the sequence of creation, that He saw it was good.
- It was all about Him and still us but this week we are focusing on *The Image of God*.
- As you know from last week, God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..."
- What does this mean? What does it mean to be made in God's image?
- Here are three important elements to being created in the image of God:
- Our first element is that men and women possess the attributes of personality, as God Himself does, but as the animals, plants, and matter do not.
- To have personality one must possess knowledge, feelings (including religious feelings), and a will.
- These God have and so do we.
- We can say that an animal does not reason as men do; it only reacts to certain problems or stimuli.
- It does not create; it only conforms to certain behavior pattern, even in as elaborate a pattern as constructing a nest, hive, or dam.
- It does not love; it only reproduces; it does not worship.
- Personality as we speak here is something that links man to God but does not link either man or God to the rest of creation.
- A second element in man's being created in the image of God is morality.
- In brief, we do not need to sin as we do or as often as we do.
- And even when we sin under compulsion (as may sometimes be the case), we still *know* it is wrong and, thus, inadvertently confess our likeness to God in this as in other areas.
- A third element involved in man's being made in God's image is spirituality, meaning that man is made for communion with God, who is Spirit (John 4:24), and that this communion is intended to be eternal as God is eternal.
- Although man shares a body with such forms of life as plants, flowers, and a soul with animals, only he possesses a spirit.
- It is on this level of the spirit that he is aware of God and communes with him.
- Here lies our true worth.
- We are made in God's image and are therefore valuable to God and others.
- God loves men and women, as he does not and cannot love the animals, plants, or inanimate matter.

**(+5 min)**

**Discussion of the Study Lesson – (~48 min) – Weekly theme: "The Image of God"**

**Day 1: Overview – Read Genesis 1:26-31**

1. In what day of God's creative work was man and woman created? Is that number unique in the Bible?

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See Genesis 7:6; Exodus 16:26; Numbers 35:6; John 2:6-8; Revelation 4:8.

**Genesis 7:6** – “Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth “

**Exodus 16:26** – “Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any.”

**Numbers 35:6** – “Six of the towns you give the Levites will be cities of refuge, to which a person who killed someone may flee. In addition, give them forty-two other towns “

**John 2:6-8** – “Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so “

**Revelation 4:8** – “Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” “

- He created them in the sixth day of His creative works.
- We can see that this was the grandiose completion of His creative work at this time.
- Humanity was the last of His original creation. He saved the best till last.
- Actually, all His creative work was leading up to this point was to be in a supportive role for sustaining humanity.

**(+2 min)**

2. What would you say are the significant differences between people and animals? Using Genesis 1:26-31, give verses to support your answer.

- The land produced the living creatures – this seems to imply they would live off the land (1:24)
- God made the wild animals according to their kind (1:25)
- When God created man He said “*Let us make man in our image, our likeness, and they will rule over fish, birds, animals, creatures.* (1:26)
- Male and female were created in “*God created man in His own image,... male and female*”
- God did not create the animals, creatures, birds, and fish in His image or *their* image.
- This sets people and animals apart.
- Image and likeness denote the *likest* image, the nearest resemblance of any of the visible creatures.
- Man was not made in the likeness of any creature that went before him, but in the likeness of his Creator; yet still between God and man there is an infinite distance.
- Only man has been given dominion in God's creation.
- This dominion is expressly stated to be over all other living creatures: sky, sea, and land creatures

**(+2 min)**

3. Do you think God was pleased with His creation? Explain.

- According to the verse 31, it says “*God saw all that He had made, and it was very good*”

**(+1 min)**

4. Least at least 5 things we learn about man and woman in verses 26-28.

- Some possible items: Created by God (Trinity); created in His image; blessed by God; was given authority over creatures lives; God saw all he made was very good.

**(+2 min)**

5. What have you learned about God from your study today?

- Answers will vary since this is a personal question.

(+2 min)

**Application 1:** Identify one thought from today's lesson that you will think about over the next 24 hours.

(+1 min)

**Day 2: "In our image" – Read Genesis 1:26-27**

1. What do you think is the significance of the words "let us?"

- Many Biblical scholars identify this as the first reference to the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- God said, "Let us make man." Man (used generically), when he was made, was to glorify the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

(+2 min)

2. Using the following passages, what does Jesus teach about the Trinity? See John 14:16; 14:6,17; 17, 23; 26; 16:7, 8-10, 14, 15

**John 14:16** – "*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor (the Holy Spirit) to be with you forever--*" – here Jesus speaks of His Father and the Holy Spirit – remember He Himself is God!

**John 14:6,17** – "(6) Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" And "(17) *the Spirit (Holy Spirit) of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you*" - Jesus is saying the Holy Spirit lives in you (a believer)

**John 14:17,23** – "'(17) *the Spirit (Holy Spirit) of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you*" and "(23) Jesus replied, 'If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him'" – another strong reference to the Trinity of God

**John 14:26** – "*But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you*" – again Jesus speaks of the third element of the Trinity and that we are taught by the Holy Spirit. Without His teaching us, Scripture cannot be understood. That is why it appears foolish or error prone or erroneous because people are blind to it until the Holy Spirit reveals its truth to the reader.

**John 16:7** – "*But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you*" – Jesus sent the Counselor/Holy Spirit after His resurrection to indwell all believers the moment they believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

**John 16:8-10** – "*When He comes (the Holy Spirit), He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;*" – this passage identifies another responsibility of the Holy Spirit and that Jesus will be with His Father at this time.

**John 16:14** – "*He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you*" – another reference by Jesus of the Holy Spirit revealing what was Jesus' and making known to believers.

**John 16:15** – "*All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you*" – We can see the importance of understanding the workings of our Triune God?

(+4 min)

3. What do you think the words “*our image*” and “*our likeness*” represent? See Ephesians 4:20-24 and Colossians 3:5-11.

- “Image of God may be defined as the characteristics of man with which God endowed him at creation, distinguishing him from the rest of God’s creatures.
- The expression *image of God* appears in Genesis 1:26-27, 9:6, and 1 Corinthians 11:7.
- Some see other references to this *image* such as Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18, and allusions to it in Psalm 8:5; 1 Corinthians 15:49 and Colossians 3:10. There are others.
- One understanding of the *image of God* in man is that it refers to qualities or attributes present in the person.
- Thus, the *image of God* is identified as human reason, will, or personality.
- Others believe the *image* is something present when the person is in a relationship with God, and in fact, is the relationship.
- The *image* is present like a reflection in a mirror, rather than like a photo – a permanent image printed on paper.
- Still others believe the *image* is something which a person does.
- Immediately after God made man in His *image*, he gave man dominion or authority over the whole earth.
- According to this view, the active tending and caring for God’s creation constitutes the *image of God* in man.
- The Bible does not indicate exactly what the *image of God* in man is.
- The most accepted definition of being created in the *image of God* means that we humans have the ability and the privileges of knowing, serving, and loving God, and that we are most fully human when fulfilling our spiritual potential.
- Every human life is precious to God, and this is exactly how we should treat the people with whom we share the world.”<sup>1</sup>

**(+5 min)**

4. What encouragement do you receive knowing you are created in God’s image? Why?

- Answers will vary but be sure to have people explain their reasons for their answers.

**(+2 min)**

**Application 2:** How will you praise God today for creating you in His image?

**(+1 min)**

**Day 3: “God blessed them” – Read Genesis 1:28**

1. With blessings often come responsibilities, list 5 responsibilities God gave to the man and woman:

- They were to 1) be fruitful; 2) Increase in number; 3) fill the earth; 4) subdue it; 5) rule over the living creatures.

**(+1 min)**

2. What do you think God meant by His use of the words “*subdue*” and “*rule over*”?

- Answers will vary.

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- Webster's definition – *subdue* – to conquer and bring into subjection; to bring under control especially by an exertion of the will.
- Webster's definition – *rule* – to exert control, direction, or influence on; to exercise authority or power over often harshly or arbitrarily.
- Some interesting comments by J. Vernon McGee, "God also tells man to "subdue" the earth.
- This, I think, is the basis of learning and of scientific exploration in our day.
- One of the Proverbs says: "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter" (Prov. 25:2).
- God hides diamonds way down in the earth and God also puts the treasures down where man has to dig for them, and I believe that today the same thing is true about knowledge.
- I think it is true about the study of the Word of God. God wants us to go into the laboratory to use the test tube and the microscope, but unfortunately man comes out with an atom bomb, and he is trying to destroy the human family in our day.
- "And have dominion" is God's instruction to man. Adam was not just a gardener to cut the grass. Man was created to rule this earth.
- I think that Adam could control the weather just as we control the air-conditioning in our homes.
- He ruled this earth. This is what we see in the Lord Jesus. When He was here on this earth, He had control over nature. He could say to a storm, "Be still." He could feed a multitude with five loaves and two fishes. It is my opinion that Adam could have done all of that until his fall.
- At the Fall he lost the dominion that God had given him."<sup>2</sup>

(+2 min)

3. God continued beyond Genesis to bless people, identify the type of blessings in the following passages:

- Exodus 20:12; Psalm 127:3-5; Malachi 3:10-12; Matthew 6:26; John 3:16; Romans 8:30; Colossians 1:14

**Exodus 20:12** – "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you" - **Longevity**

**Psalm 127:3-5** – "*Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate*" - **Children**

**Malachi 3:10-12** – "*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty*" - **Prosperity**

**Matthew 6:26** – "*Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"* – **Food/clothing**

**John 3:16** – "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*" – **Salvation**

**Romans 8:30** – "*And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified*" – **Glorification**

**Colossians 1:13-14** – "*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*" – **Forgiveness**

(+3 min)

4. Do you think these words of God in verse 28 gives people the right to treat the environment and living creatures however they want? Explain.

- Answers will vary

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- All belongs to God and therefore we are to care for His environment and creatures.

(+1 min)

**Application 3:** How will you appreciate and respect the authority God has given you in His world today?

(+1 min)

**Day 4: God's gift. – Read Genesis 1:29-30**

1. What was God's gift to men/women? Do you think animals and people were originally vegetarians?

- Answers will vary on this one – this is an area that is disputable so avoid people digging in on these questions, they are just questions of interest.
- His gift was vegetation to be used for food.
- From these verses it appears that both animals and people were vegetarians.
- God makes no mention in Scripture at this point of giving people permission to kill any animals, birds, fish, etc.

(+1 min)

2. Another attribute of the person of God is that He is a gift giver. What gifts does He give in these verses: Deuteronomy 12:10; Proverbs 3:24; Matthew 5:45; Philippians 2:25-30

**Deuteronomy 12:10** – *“But you will cross the Jordan and settle in the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and he will give you rest from all your enemies around you so that you will live in safety”* – **Rest**

**Proverbs 3:24** – *“when you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet”* – **Sleep**

**Matthew 5:45** – *“that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”* – **Sun/rain**

**Philippians 2:25-30** – *“But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.”* – **Health**

(+2 min)

3. What do you learn about the person of God from these verses?

- Answers will vary.

(+2 min)

4. What do the words *“And it was so.”* tell you about His person?

- Answers will vary.
- Some possible insights might be: He is sovereign, He has authority over all things, He is omnipotent, He is personal, He is truth, He is the architect of the universe, etc.

(+1 min)

**Application 4:** What attribute of God will you commit to thinking about over the next 24 hours?

(+1 min)

### Day 5: "It was very good" – Genesis 1:31

1. What is different in this verse compared to verses 1:3, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25?

- As God looked over all that He had created, including man and woman now, He saw that it was *very good*!
- God was seeing His work as superlatively, or only good; as good as they could be.
- The plan was wise, the work well executed, the different parts properly arranged; their nature, limits, mode of existence, manner of propagation, habits, mode of sustenance, etc., etc., properly and permanently established and secured.
- Every thing was formed to the utmost perfection of its nature, so that nothing could be added or diminished without encumbering the operations of *matter* and *spirit* on the one hand, or rendering them inefficient to the end proposed on the other.
- God has so done all these marvelous works so as to glorify Him in all, by all, and through all.

(+2 min)

2. Why do you think God used this phrase at this time? Explain.

- What power in the word of God! "*He spoke and it was done. He commanded and all things stood fast*" (Ps 33:9)].
- "*Great and manifold are thy works, Lord God Almighty! in wisdom hast thou made them all*" (Psalm 104:24).
- We should admire that wisdom, not only in the regular progress of creation, but in its perfect adaptation to the end.
- God is represented as pausing at every stage to look at His work (a lesson we could learn).
- No wonder He contemplated it with complacency.
- Every object was in its right place, every vegetable process going on in season, every animal in its structure and instincts suited to its mode of life and its use in the economy of the world.
- He was seeing everything that He had made answering His plan which His eternal wisdom had conceived.
- It's no wonder that He said, "*and it was very good.*"
- We should see His glory in our environment and the lives around us continually.

(+2 min)

3. How would you explain God's creative activity on the sixth day to someone? What significant points would you make?

- Answers will vary – should be interesting.

(+2 min)

4. God could have created all that He has created in six days in an instant. Why do you think He took six days to do this creative work?

- Answers will vary.
- "In order to determine why God created the way He did, we need to understand the purposes for which God created the universe.

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- Certain religious sects assume God created the earth for mankind to give us a perfect place to live that is designed for our enjoyment.
- However, nowhere does the Bible indicate that God created the earth for our pleasure or enjoyment.
- In contrast, the Bible indicates that the earth was established to accomplish the purposes of God.
- What are the purposes of God regarding this creation?
- First and foremost, the creation is designed as a place where evil can be conquered.
- Jesus Christ, through His sacrifice on the cross, provided a sacrifice to remove the evil we have committed and reconcile us to God and each other.
- Our role in this purpose is to choose between good and evil.
- By choosing good, we participate in God's purposes and bring glory to Him.
- According to the Westminster Shorter Catechism, "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever."
- This creation is *not* the ultimate purpose of God, since it will be destroyed and replaced with a permanent, perfect creation, in which we can live with God forever (Revelation 21:1, "*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.*").
- So, by necessity, this universe must be temporary and subject to the physical and spiritual laws of God has put in place."<sup>3</sup>
- Just one view is given above but it seems to be a very true view.

**(+3 min)**

5. What is the most significant idea you have learned about God from this week's study?

- Answers will vary.

**(+2 min)**

**Application 5:** What will you apply to your life from what you have learned this week? Will you write that down and post it so you can be reminded each day? (Postit® on the bathroom mirror, refrigerator, computer monitor/screen, etc.)

**(+1 min)**

### Closing Comments

- We see that God created people above all other life.
- We see that God was *very pleased* after creating man and woman.
- We see that the Triune God was present and created man and woman in their image and likeness.
- God blessed them, told them to multiply, and gave them rule over all life on earth
- We see that God loves the man and woman and He loves us today just as much.
- Were it not for His love for us, He would never have implemented a plan of redemption (which we will cover in chapter 3).
- Be sure to do your study on a daily basis, spend time each day in the Bible and prayer.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal Scripture to you in ways you've never seen before --- its really exciting!

**(+2 min)**

### Closing Prayer

**(+1 min)**

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<sup>1</sup> "Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary", F.F. Bruce, R.K. Harrison, Ronald Youngblood, Kermit Ecklebarger, Thomas Nelson Publishing, 1986, ISBN 0-8407-4955-4, pp. 502



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<sup>2</sup> “Thru The Bible Old Testament, Epiphany Software, “Bible Explorer The Complete Bible Reference Library,” Version 2.0 deluxe, 1999.

<sup>3</sup> Found on [www.godandscience.org/apologetics](http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics), this site has been partially reviewed and appears to contain some foundational apologetics for dealing with atheist, scientists, and other groups. If you see anything in question on this site, please let the ADC know via email to [adc@ccpc.us](mailto:adc@ccpc.us).