


THE *IMAGO DEI*:
God's Image in Humanity

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Living Faith Anglican Church
"The Gathering," May 2019

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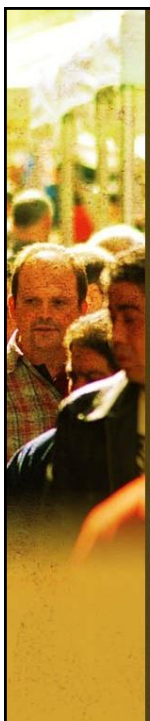


**The Image of God Created in
Untested Humanity (last week)**

"The Image of God
is the sum total of all the
ABILITIES and ATTRIBUTES
that make human persons like God."

Image relates to → WHOLENESS.
Entrance of Sin → BROKENNESS.

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The Image of God Created in Untested Humanity (Revised)

“The Image of God is the ESSENCE of who we are as human persons, and it is manifested in ABILITIES and ATTRIBUTES that finitely mirror and represent God.”

Image relates to → WHOLENESS.
Entrance of Sin → BROKENNESS.

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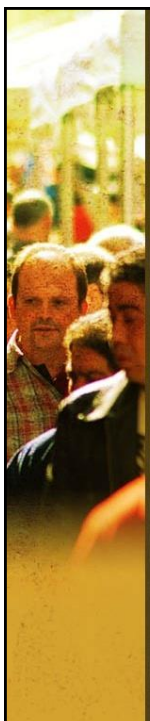


The Image of God Marred through Humanity's Fall (Gen. 3).


WAS THE IMAGE LOST?
OT: Gen. 5:1-3, 9:6; Psalm 8
NT: 1 Cor.11:7; Col.3:9-10; Jas.3:9

IF THE IMAGE WAS NOT LOST, WHAT HAPPENED?

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**The Image of God Marred through
Humanity's Fall – Innocent???**



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**The Image of God Marred through
Humanity's Fall (cont.).**

Three Theological Concepts:


1) Total Depravity ([Eph.4:17-19](#))

- Every human being.
- Every area of human nature.
- Total inability to please God.

2) Separation – Death (Gen.3:3-4)

- Physical, Spiritual, Eternal

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The Image of God Marred through Humanity's Fall (cont.).

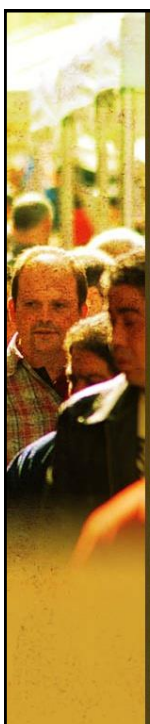
3. The Creator's Curse (Gen.3:4-19; [Rom.8:19-23](#))

Introduction of pain, chaos and frustration in the entire creation.

“Every sinner is like a king deposed from his throne.”

– Blaise Pascal (& “Lion King”)


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Pause: Human Depravity – What are the key questions?

<p>Are human beings born ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innocent? - Able to please/satisfy God? • Fallen? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weakened, but able to satisfy/please God? – Depraved, and unable to satisfy/please God apart from Grace? 	<p>How necessary is the Grace of God?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not necessary (Free will). 2. Basically necessary, but humans initiate. 3. Necessary, God initiates for all. 4. Necessary, God initiates for some.
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Pause: Human Depravity
– Four Historic Theological Positions

1. Pelagianism (Pelagius; innocent)	Condemned at Council of Ephesus (431)
2. Semi-Pelagianism (weakened; humans initiate)	Condemned at Synod of Orange (529) {along w/ double predestination}
3. Semi-Augustinianism (prevenient grace)	Primary historic Catholic position → Arminianism (Synergism)
4. Augustinianism (Augustine; total depravity)	Position of Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Synod of Dordt (Monergism)

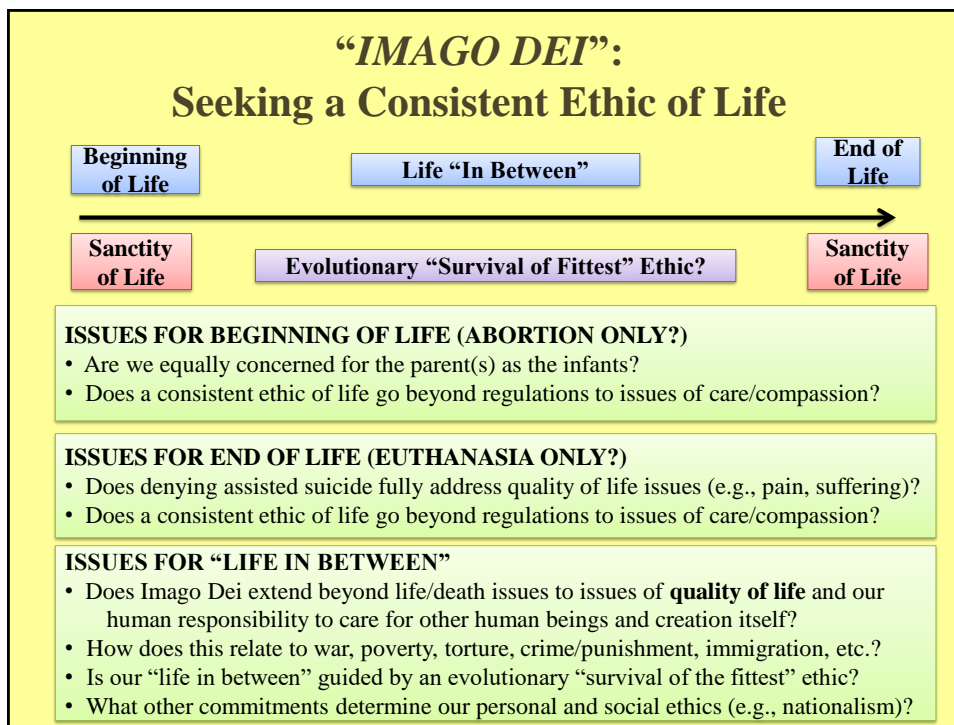
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What are the Implications of *IMAGO DEI*?

- All human life has value because all humans are image-bearers.
- Even in rebellion, humans demonstrate their image-bearing capabilities and qualities!
- **What are the ethical-social-political implications of *Imago Dei*?**
 – A call for a **consistent** “sanctity of human life” ethic...

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**Anselm of Canterbury,
Prayer from the Preface to his *Proslogion***

I acknowledge, Lord, and I give thanks that you have created your image in me, so that I may remember you, think of you, love you. But this image is so obliterated and worn away by wickedness, it is so obscured by the smoke of sins, that it cannot do what it was created to do, unless you renew and reform it.

I am not attempting, O Lord, to penetrate your loftiness, for I cannot begin to match my understanding with it, but I desire in some measure to understand your truth, which my heart believes and loves. For I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but I believe in order to understand. For this too I believe, that "unless I believe, I shall not understand." (Isaiah 7:9)

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