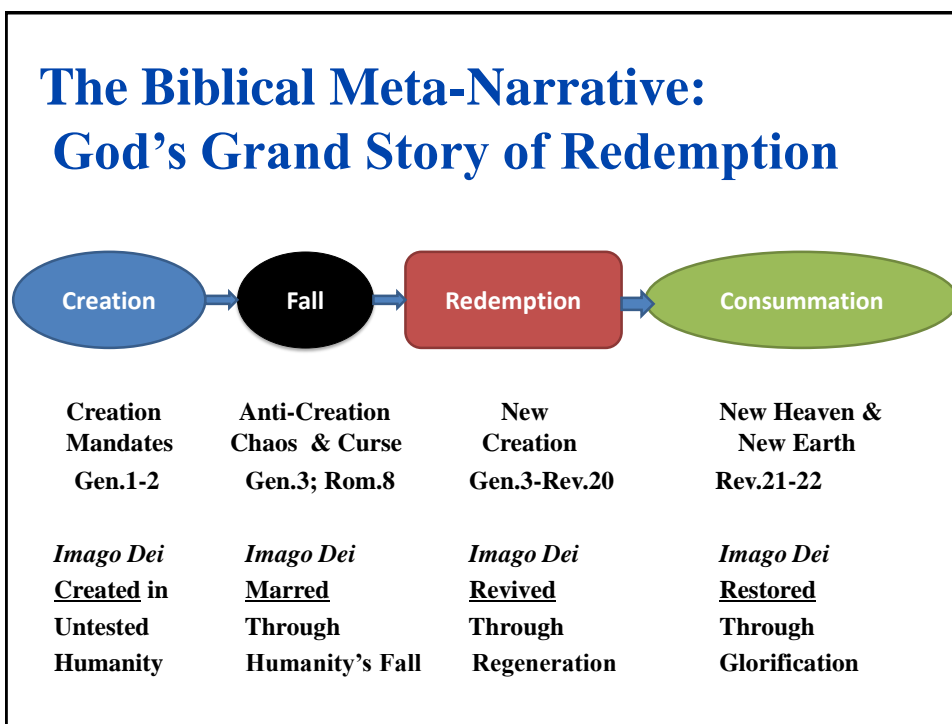


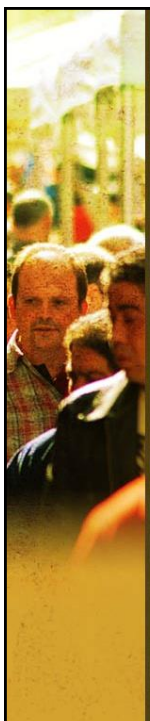
THE *IMAGO DEI*:
God's Image in Humanity

Rev. Carl B. Smith II, Ph.D.
Living Faith Anglican Church
"The Gathering," May 2019

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Imago Dei & Major Doctrines

- **Theology Proper** – “Imaged God” & Creation
- **Christology** – Perfect Image of God
- **Pneumatology** – Restorer of the Image
- **Anthropology** – Human as Image-Bearer
- **Hamartiology** – What Happened to the Image?
- **Soteriology** – Image Revived (“Alive”)
- **Sanctification** – Image Progressively Restored
- **Ecclesiology** – “New Humanity” in Christ
- **Eschatology** – Ultimate Restoration of Image
- Missing: Bibliology and Angelology

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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 (new proposal)

“Humanity’s ESSENCE remains the Image of God; however, our capacity to mirror and represent God and to manifest that image in ABILITIES and ATTRIBUTES has been critically impaired by sin and rebellion and remains so apart from God’s intervention and enablement.”

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The Image of God Revived through Redemption/Regeneration–New Creation

A Word on Atonement Theories (Metaphors)

Redemption – “The act of God in purchasing a people to bear his name.” (corporate & individual implications)

- **A Covenant-Making God** (divine initiative)
 - “They shall be my people; I shall be their God” – crucial language of **Covenant**.
- The Call of **Abraham** – Genesis 12:1-3
- Old Covenant: Moses & **People of Israel**
- New Covenant: The **Church**; a “new humanity” in Jesus Christ ([Eph.2](#))

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The Image of God Revived through Redemption/Regeneration–New Creation.

Regeneration – “The act of the Holy Spirit whereby he makes us alive in Christ.”

John 3:3-8 – “You must be **born again.**”
 - born of “water” and of the “Spirit.”

2 Cor.5:17 – “...a **new creation.**”

Eph.2:5 – “...made us **alive** with Christ.”

Titus 3:5 – “He saved us through the washing of **rebirth** and the **renewal** by the Holy Spirit.”

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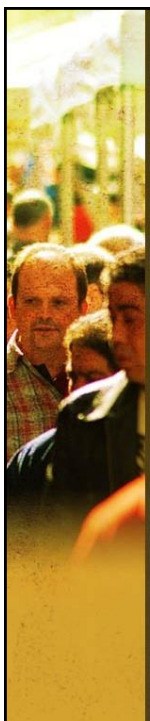


The Image of God Revived through Redemption/Regeneration–New Creation.

Humanity Needed Christ – The Perfect Redeemer (Is.61:1-3; [Phil.2:5-11](#) {“form”})

1. Christ – Likeness of Humanity ([Heb.2:5-18](#))
2. Christ – Perfect Image of God ([Heb.1:3](#); [2 Cor.4:4](#); [Col.1:15, 2:9-10](#))
 - “He became what we are that we might become what his is.” -- Athanasius
3. Through Christ, we have the “Power to Become...”:
 - Children of God by Adoption (Jn. 1:12).
 - Restored Humanity (Eph. 2:14; 4:13).

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Christ – The Perfect Image of God

Hebrews 1:3 – “He is the radiance of the **glory** of God and the **exact imprint** of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...”

2 Cor. 4:4 - “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the **glory** of Christ, who is the **image** of God.”

Col. 1:15, 2:9-10 – “He is the **image** of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation... For in him the whole **fullness of deity dwells bodily**, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.”

[RETURN](#)

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The Image of God Renewed through Sanctification/Transformation – Our “Moral Advance.”

2 Cor.3:18 “...being **transformed into his likeness** with ever-increasing glory...”

Eph.4:24 “...put on the **new self**, created to be **like God** in true righteousness and holiness.”

Col.3:9-10 “...taken off the **old self**...and put on the **new self...renewed in knowledge** in the **image** of its Creator.”

2 Pet.1:3-11 “...**divine power**” → “participate in the **divine nature.**” {Gr., *prokope*}

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The Image of God Renewed through Sanctification/Transformation (cont.)

Sanctification includes four parallel concepts (spiritual formation):

1. Christlikeness – Eph.4:13; 2 Cor.3:18
2. Fruit of the Spirit – Gal.5:22-24; Eph.5:9 (“fruit of the light”)
3. Full of the Spirit – Eph.5:18; Col.3:16 (correlation of Spirit & Word)
4. Partakers of Divine Nature – 2 Pet.1:3-11 (ladder of virtue; our “moral advance”; Atonement Theory: *Theosis*—divinization)

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Collect for the Second Sunday after Christmas

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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