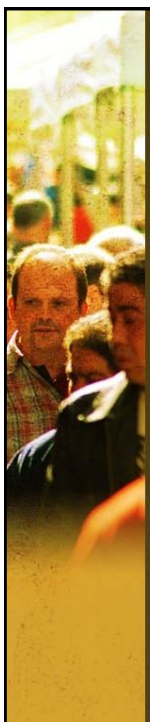


THE *IMAGO DEI*:
God's Image in Humanity

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Living Faith Anglican Church
"The Gathering," May 2019

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The Image of God...

1. **CREATED** in Untested Humanity.
2. **MARRIED** through Humanity's Fall.
3. **REVIVED** through Redemption/Regeneration.
 - b. **RENEWED** through Sanctification.
4. **RESTORED** through Glorification.

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Romans 8:28-30

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- Context: Suffering & Difficulties (assurance)
- Foreknew → Predestined → Called → Justified → Glorified

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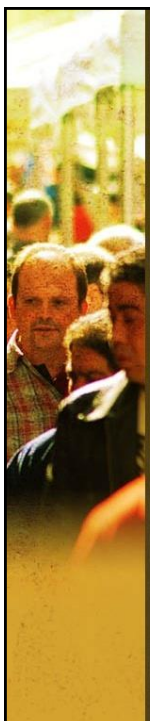


The Image of God Renewed through Sanctification/Transformation (cont.)

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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2 Peter 1:3-11: Ladder of Virtue

³His **divine power** has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may **participate in the divine nature** and **escape** the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵For this very reason, **make every effort to add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. (continued...)

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2 Peter 1:3-11: Ladder of Virtue

(Continued)

⁸For if you **possess these qualities in increasing measure**, they will keep you from being **ineffective** and **unproductive** in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has **forgotten** that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

¹⁰Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to **make your calling and election sure**. For if you do these things, you will never fall, ¹¹and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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2 Peter 1:3-11: Ladder of Virtue

<i>AGAPE LOVE</i>
BROTHERLY AFFECTION
GODLINESS
STEADFASTNESS
SELF-CONTROL
KNOWLEDGE
VIRTUE

FAITH = FOUNDATION

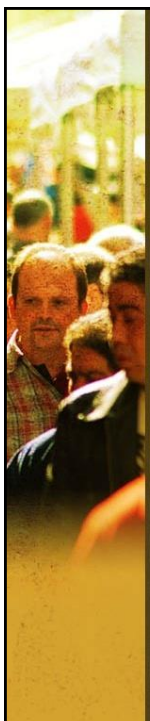
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Critical Concepts Related to the Renewal of the Image

1. Central Place of the **Mind** (Eph.4:21-24; Col.3:9-10; 2 Pet. 1:3, 5, 8 - knowledge)
2. **Process** of Dehabituation/Rehabitation (“Put off/put on” Eph.4:25-32; Col.3:9-10)
3. **Love** as the Crowning Virtue (Col.3:14; Gal.5:22-23; 2 Pet.1:5-7; Matt.22:37-40)
4. Joint Function of the **Word & Holy Spirit** (Col.3:16-17; Eph.5:18-21)
5. Role of **Spiritual Disciplines/Practices** (Means, not the end of Sanctification)

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**The Image of God Restored through
Glorification/Consummation – “Same
Image.”**

Glorification – restoration/recapitulation

Rom.8:19-23 “released from bondage to
decay...brought into glorious freedom”

Rom.8:29 “conformed to likeness of his Son”


1 Cor.15:47-49 “likeness of man from heaven”

2 Cor.3:18 “transformed into his likeness”

Phil.3:21 “transform...like his glorious body”

1 Jn.3:2-3 “We shall be like him...”

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The Story of Redemption Is...

...the story of how God is working to
bring humanity and creation into
the original state of **wholeness** and
fellowship with Himself.

God is seeking to **restore** humanity to
its original state as **image-bearer**,
manifesting abilities and attributes
which mirror and represent God’s
character, authority and truth in the
world. (Note: missional focus)


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Implications of *Imago Dei*

- How are believers in Christ to **function** in the world as image-bearers?
 - What are our **priorities**? Any **obligations**?
 - What is our “**manner** of being”?
- How is our task related to the “**already-not yet**” **nature of God’s kingdom** (“...Thy Kingdom come...on earth as in heaven”)?
- What is the believer’s **posture and identity** to be with reference to conditions after the Fall:
 - **human divisions** (e.g., nations, politics, religions),
 - **human conditions** (e.g., wealth, poverty, morality),
 - **common concerns** (e.g., health, environment, peace, justice, crime), etc.?

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BCP Prayer for the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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